

# Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

## Merry Christmas

The Jordan Times will not appear on Thursday/Friday, Dec. 26/27 because of the Christmas holiday. Our next issue will appear on Saturday, Dec. 28. The newspaper wishes its readers and advertisers a merry Christmas.

**Bomb found at Tel Aviv bus stop**  
TEL AVIV (AP) — A small bomb was found concealed in a loaf of bread at a bus stop in Tel Aviv on Tuesday, and dismantled by police without anyone being injured, police said. A woman passer-by discovered the suspicious-looking loaf at the bus stop close to Tel Aviv university and informed police explosive experts, said a police spokeswoman, speaking on condition she was not identified. Two other bombs were found and neutralised safely in towns close to Tel Aviv on Monday, Israeli media said. One was hidden in a supermarket 10 kilometres east of Tel Aviv, and the other was at a bus stop 16 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv. In another development, Israeli security forces arrested a group of Palestinians who set fire to a bus depot in the Gaza Strip, destroying 100 buses, military sources said on Tuesday. The Palestinians were arrested on Monday, a few hours after the fire at the Erez bus depot, about 64 kilometres south of Tel Aviv.

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### Gorbachev sends get-well message to Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent his best wishes to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat for a speedy recovery. Mr. Arafat was visited at his residence in Tunis here by the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia to convey Mr. Gorbachev's good wishes, the Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, reported. Mr. Arafat, who has been suffering from flu for some time, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gorbachev and thanked him for supporting Palestinian rights in a letter he recently sent to King Hassan II of Morocco. Mr. Arafat also handed the ambassador a written message to the Soviet leader.

### Israel convicts reporter for travelling to Jordan

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court on Tuesday convicted a local journalist who travelled to Jordan of violating laws prohibiting Israelis from visiting countries at war with the Jewish state. Amnon Kapeliov, who has dual Israeli and French nationality, used a French passport to travel to Amman last March to cover a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) for the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot. He was charged as an Israeli national.

### Hijack bid foiled, Iran says

NICOSIA (AP) — Security guards aboard an Iranian airliner foiled an attempt to hijack the plane while on a domestic flight, Tehran Radio reported. The radio said the attempt was made while the plane was flying from Shiraz Island off the Iranian coast in the Gulf to the south Iranian city of Shiraz. The radio added that one of the would-be hijackers was killed but none of the passengers or the crew was hurt.

### Yemeni leaders to hold unity talks

SANA'A (R) — South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad arrived in Sana'a on Tuesday for talks with North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the progress of unity moves between their two countries. The official SABA news agency quoted Mr. Nasser Mohammad as saying his talks would centre on the work of a joint ministerial committee formed in 1982. The committee met in Sana'a earlier this month.

### Sudan to renew bid to try Numeiri

KHARTOUM (R) — An envoy of a committee gathering evidence against former Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri will deliver a "documented criminal record" to Egyptian authorities next week, the official Sudanese news agency said. It quoted committee Chairman Awar Ezeldin as saying the envoy will offer to Egyptian officials that Mr. Numeiri does not qualify as a political refugee and should be extradited to stand trial.

## Lower House passes law on travel tax without amendment

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday approved the 1984 travel tax law under which every Jordanian travelling out of the country by air has to pay a fixed fee of JD 10 while those travelling by land or sea have to pay a fee of JD 5 each.**

The much-debated law, which had to shuttle between the Lower and Upper Houses for three times, was approved by the Lower House although the House had rejected it twice hoping to introduce some amendments. The amendments would have covered the question of whether the holder of the passport travels alone or together with other members of the family who might be included in the passport pays only JD 10 or JD 10 for everyone who is travelling with him or her.

Deputies had also asked the Upper House to exempt students, children under the age of 10 and government employees who travel on official assignments from paying the travel tax or at least to reduce the tax by half for the three categories. The Upper House in its Dec. 2 session rejected the Lower House proposals saying the country needed revenues.

During Tuesday's one-hour session, the Lower House approved the law as it was originally formulated by the government. Twenty-seven deputies voted in favour of the law while the rest of 53 deputies present voted against it.

Deputies Laith Shbeilat, Riyad

Al Nawaisah, Ramadan Al Hajjah, Ahmad Al Koufah, Saoud Al Qaddi, Maher Arshid and Hafez Abdul Nabbi were absent from Tuesday's session.

The first to speak after the House approved the law was Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who described the law as "very fair."

"Although I was very cautious not to interfere in your discussions," the prime minister said, "I would like to stress that the government would have asked you to increase the amount of travel tax had it not been earlier discussed among you."

Referring to the JD 37 million deficit in Jordan's 1986 budget, Mr. Rifai said: "All of you have noticed the huge deficit and the only way to secure revenues is through lowering expenditures, increasing exports, decreasing imports and collecting local revenues in a right manner."

Addressing some of the dep-

uties who labelled the travel tax law as "socially unfair," Mr. Rifai said: "We are talking of (an issue related to) people who can afford to leave country. Citizens who pay thousands of dinars abroad and whose income will not be affected by the JD 10 travel tax law."

Calling on the House to constantly review all the decisions it takes and to revise the laws it has already studied, he said: "I hope you will always continue to evaluate and revise any law which has been referred to the House."

Had the Lower House not accepted the Upper House stand on the travel tax law, Parliament would have called for a joint session of the two Houses to debate the points of disagreement and this would have marked the first joint meeting ever since Parliament was restored in January 1984.

Deputies Nazih Ammarin, Salman Al Qudrah, Abdul Baggi Gammo and Daoud Sulaiman Daoud, at the outset of Tuesday's session, urged their colleagues to approve the Financial Committee's suggestions to approve the law saying it was the only way to maintain a fixed amount of revenues which are needed for Jordan. They were criticised by Deputy Youssef Al Athem, who said the travel tax law should be in harmony with the citizen's "social status."

According to Sheikh Gammo, the treasury receives an amount of JD 9 million per year in the form of travel tax.

Dr. Athem expressed dissatisfaction for the House's decision to accept the Upper House's (Continued on page 3)

### Iraq to use 'new weapons' in war

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Tuesday it would soon unleash new weapons in the five-year-long Gulf war as part of a plan to destroy economic targets in Iran.

The commander of the Iraqi air force, Air Marshal Hamid Shaaban, said in the army newspaper Al Qadisiya:

"The near future shall witness our employment of new weapons that will surprise the enemy and the whole world."

The statement came a week after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein visited the Soviet Union, where Arab diplomats said Iraq was apparently seeking fresh arms from Moscow.

No details emerged, but Iraq said on President Hussein's return that the visit had strengthened relations between the two countries.

The Soviet Union has taken a neutral stand in the war but has friendship treaty with Baghdad and is one of its main arms suppliers.

Air Marshal Shaaban said a new Iranian offensive was still expected "but we will use the air force as a decisive weapon to crush this aggression." Iraqi planes, he said, had killed many Iranian troops in raids on the southern warfront.

Reports from both sides say Iran has massed troops on the southern and central fronts and Iraq last week asked the United Nations to intervene to prevent a major offensive.

Air Marshal Shaaban said the Iraqi air force was executing a plan to destroy all remaining economic targets in Iran "in order to leave it without any resources."

Iraq has repeatedly raided Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in try to choke off oil exports funding Tehran's war effort.

Air Marshal Shaaban said: "We can now say with full confidence that Kharg's installations were destroyed by the Iraqi air force and any repair works have become impossible."

Iran says the terminal is still operating, but Air Marshal Shaaban said it was only "smuggling small shipments."

### Gorbachev's message to Assad believed to contain mediation offer

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent Syria a message which diplomats said on Tuesday they believed was an offer to help patch up relations with Iraq.

Syrian official said Mr. Gorbachev's message was delivered to President Hafez Al Assad on Tuesday by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Feli Fedotov.

The officials declined to give any details.

But Kuwait's Arabic daily Al Watan reported on Monday that the Soviet Union was willing to mediate between Syria and Iraq, two Arab countries with close links to Moscow.

The paper said the offer was discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Moscow last week and a senior Soviet official would visit Damascus on Monday to follow it up.

Syria and Iraq broke relations in 1980 after President Hussein accused Damascus of masterminding a coup attempt.

On the Gulf war front, Iraq charged that Iran was massing troops for a major offensive and last week asked the United Nations to intervene.

### Shamir wants to find way to remove Syrian missiles

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Tuesday that Israel must find a way to remove Syrian anti-aircraft missiles recently deployed along the Lebanese border.

A Foreign Ministry official, briefing foreign correspondents, quoted Shamir as telling an American war veterans group that Israel could not tolerate the missiles.

"The Syrians are dangerous and we cannot tolerate these missiles," Shamir was quoted as saying. "We must find a way to have them removed but we must have patience."

Syria moved batteries of long-range Soviet-made SA-2 missiles into emplacements along its border with Lebanon after Israel said its planes on a surveillance flight shot down two Syrian MiG-23s over Lebanon last month.

Israel uses the flights to gather intelligence and has bombed east Lebanon there 13 times this year.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has warned that the deployment of missiles could escalate

Syria has supported Iran in the five-year-long Gulf war against Iraq.

The Soviet Union is Syria's main arms supplier and has also provided much of Iraq's weaponry.

Al Watan said the Soviet mediation offer was made "in the light of Israeli and American threats to Syria and Iranian threats to Iraq."

Tension between Syria and Israel has escalated in the last few weeks. Last week Israel accused the Syrians of moving missiles up to the Lebanese border, threatening regular Israeli reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

Last month Israel said it shot down two Syrian MiG jets in a dogfight, the first aerial clash since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

On the Gulf war front, Iraq charged that Iran was massing troops for a major offensive and last week asked the United Nations to intervene.

But the London-based Jane's Defence Weekly said on Monday that the high risk of war between Israel and Syria "has been eliminated" despite the Syrian redeployment of missiles.

"Military and political experts have expressed their opinion that the risk of war which was high two weeks ago has been eliminated," the authoritative defence publication said in an article from Tel Aviv.

Jane's said an Israeli spokesman confirmed that the Syrians have redeployed their anti-aircraft missiles.

"They moved some mixed batteries of SA-6 and SA-8 missiles into Lebanon on the Beirut-Damascus highway," the magazine said.

"Other batteries were placed in the area of Baalbek. After strong Israeli protests, the Syrians removed these batteries and now they are stationed on Syrian soil," it said.



TALKS ON 5-YEAR-PLAN: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Planning Minister Abdullah Nsour attend a meeting in Salt on Tuesday during which various aspects of the 1986-1990 national development plan were discussed (See page 3).

## JPA strongly condemns killing of Arab journalist in W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Press Association (JPA) has strongly condemned the killing of a Palestinian journalist, Hassan Abdul Halim, in the occupied West Bank and urged all international journalists' federations to condemn this crime and to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom.

A JPA statement, carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the killing was "another link in a long chain of Israeli crimes committed against our kinsmen in the occupied Arab regions in flagrant defiance of international principles and laws."

"We call on all international organisations, trade unions and journalists' federations to condemn this criminal action by Zionist terrorist and urge all peace-loving nations to stand by the Palestinians in their struggle to achieve freedom," the statement said.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian journalists said on Monday they suspected mid-level men working with Israeli contractors of killing Abdul Halim, who had been investigating fraudulent land purchases on the occupied territories.

Hanna Seniora, editor-in-chief of the East Jerusalem daily newspaper Al Fajr, said he did not believe police claims that Abdul Halim, 36, a member of his staff,

died while making a bomb. Abdul Halim had been missing since Oct. 3.

"I am afraid Halim was killed by Palestinians involved in fraudulent land deals with Israelis and I will denounce them in my newspaper soon," Seniora told Reuters.

Abdul Halim's mutilated body was found on Friday near the West Bank town of Ramallah, Israeli police claimed on Monday medical reports indicated that he died when handling an explosive charge which included a Soviet-made hand grenade.

Radiwan Abu Ayyash, president of the Arab Journalists' Association in the occupied territories, said of the police report: "We reject this fabrication completely."

He said: "What killed Abdul Halim was his pen. He wrote many accurate accounts about land fraud and cases of foregery where Palestinians were cheated out of land by dirty people who are tools of the occupation authorities."

A number of West Bank Palestinians have complained they were swindled out of land by mid-level men acting for Israeli contractors building new Jewish settlements.

Two Israelis have been charged with swindling potential Jewish purchasers of West Bank land and

### 'Hijacked' Soviet plane landed in China, reports say

PEKING (AP) — A hijacked Soviet airliner with 50 people on board made a forced landing in China's Inner Mongolia region on Dec. 21, sources in Peking said on Tuesday.

Japanese and French news reports quoted Chinese sources as saying Chinese Foreign Ministry officials were rushed to Hailar in Inner Mongolia to handle the situation.

The officials have returned to Peking, the French news service Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

East European sources in Peking confirmed that the incident took place but could not provide details.

A duty officer at the Soviet embassy in Peking told the Associated Press, "I have no information about it," and Chinese Foreign Ministry officials were unavailable for comment.

The Aeroflot passenger plane reportedly was forced to land near Hailar, a rail junction about 1,070 kilometres northeast of Peking and about 150 kilometres from the Sino-Soviet border.

The AFP and Kyodo News Service reports gave no indication of what happened to those on board or details about the aircraft's destination or make.

Chinese officials spent three days in Hailar before returning to Peking, AFP said. It was not known if the plane has flown back to the Soviet Union, or what happened to those on board.

There has been no mention of such an incident in the Chinese media.

## Bethlehem celebrates Christmas under alert eyes of Israelis

BETHLEHEM (Agencies) — Bethlehem, heavily guarded by fully armed Israeli soldiers, was decked out with lights and streamers Tuesday as Christmas eve celebrations began in the city where tradition says Jesus was born.

Israeli soldiers carrying automatic weapons kept watch over Manger Square from rooftops while others used metal detectors to check visitors entering the Church of the Nativity which dates to the 4th Century A.D.

The number of pilgrims appeared to be far less than previous years. Arab shopkeepers and Israeli officials blamed the decline on a recent rash of violence in the Middle East.

Thousands of Palestinians and tourists packed Manger Square, near the Church of the Nativity, to greet a procession led by Latin Patriarch Giacomo Beltritti from Jerusalem to the town of Jesus Christ's birth.

But despite the crowds, Israeli officials reported a 20 per cent drop in the number of holiday pilgrims compared to the estimated 20,000 who visited Bethlehem last year.

Security precautions were highly visible as Palestinian scouts playing bagpipes and drums paraded under the watchful eyes of Israeli soldiers and border police armed with submachine guns.

"I would like to see no security whatsoever at Christmas but we do live in an abnormal, crazy situation," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij told reporters.

Mr. Freij, himself a Christian, had said he hoped to celebrate Christmas as usual despite security arrangements in the town on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

During the holiday season, troops have been patrolling the city's winding alleys. At the entrance to Manger Square, soldiers using metal detectors searched visitors for concealed weapons and checked identification papers.

Others stood guard atop sand-coloured stone buildings on the square, which normally serves as a parking area but is graced during the holidays by a towering Christmas tree.

The tight security failed to dampen the spirits of pilgrims, who have been enjoying clear skies and a view of nearby Jerusalem shining in the sunlight.

Midnight mass was to be celebrated in St. Catherine's Church adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, which is built over the grotto revered as the birthplace of Jesus.

Administrative control of the Church of the Nativity is shared by the Catholics with the Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches. The Eastern rite churches celebrate Christmas in January.

Worshippers unable to get into the church were able to watch the proceedings on a huge television screen outside the church.

A Protestant service was to be held in nearby Shepherd's field.

## Leading Kremlin figure removed from party post

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party removed Viktor V. Grishin, the longest-serving politburo member and a leading figure in the Kremlin's old guard, from his post as Moscow party boss on Tuesday.

The official news agency TASS reported Mr. Grishin's removal "due to his retirement" in an announcement that skipped the standard note of thanks for his service, indicating he left under a cloud.

TASS did not say whether Mr. Grishin would be removed as a full member of the politburo, but he presumably will lose that post as well. Politburo member Nikolai A. Tikhonov was removed from the top body after retiring as premier earlier this year.

The brief TASS report said Mr. Grishin, 71, was replaced by 54-year-old Boris N. Yeltsin at a Moscow party meeting presided over by Kremlin leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev himself.

Mr. Grishin, who was appointed Moscow city party chief in 1967, is one of the last members of the politburo's "old guard," who rose to power under the late Leonid I. Brezhnev and have been removed one by one under Mr. Gorbachev.

There had been persistent rumours that Mr. Grishin was on his way out, but none of them were confirmed and Tuesday's action was unexpected.

Mr. Grishin's name has been linked with a series of rumours and scandals involving Moscow's housing construction industry, which underwent party investigation earlier this year.

The newspaper, citing administration sources, said the tone of the letter was conciliatory.

No White House spokesman was available to comment on the report. On Monday White House spokesman Larry Speakes declined to comment on a similar report in the Boston Globe.

Mr. Gorbachev offered on Dec. 5 to open up some Soviet nuclear test sites for inspection if the United States would join a Soviet moratorium on underground nuclear testing.

The United States rejected that proposal, but the Post said Mr. Reagan was encouraged enough

## Reagan said to have offered talks with Soviets on inspection of nuclear testing

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has written a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offering to discuss on-site inspection of nuclear testing in both countries, the Washington Post said Tuesday.

The newspaper, citing administration sources, said the tone of the letter was conciliatory.

No White House spokesman was available to comment on the report. On Monday White House spokesman Larry Speakes declined to comment on a similar report in the Boston Globe.

Mr. Gorbachev offered on Dec. 5 to open up some Soviet nuclear test sites for inspection if the United States would join a Soviet moratorium on underground nuclear testing.

The United States rejected that proposal, but the Post said Mr. Reagan was encouraged enough

by the tone of Mr. Gorbachev's offer to respond.

On Monday, Mr. Reagan sent Congress a report charging the Soviet Union with violating some provisions of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2) and other arms agreements. SALT-2, which was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, expires on Dec. 31, but the White House said the United States would continue to observe its terms as long as the Soviet Union did.

A Soviet commentator has accused President Reagan of using an "unworthy" tactic in his report to Congress.

Alexander Malyshevskii of the news agency Novosti said in an analysis issued Monday night that the U.S. administration had produced false charges of Soviet infringements so it could blame Moscow for lack of progress in arms control talks.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev had agreed at their Geneva meeting to speed up disarmament negotiations, but progress would be hard without a change in the U.S. position on space weapons, he wrote.

"This is why the U.S. administration hastened to 'accuse' its negotiating partner in advance in order to explain its intransigence and to put the blame on the Soviet Union."

"This is an unworthy method and it is regrettable that Ronald Reagan, of all people, should have submitted this report to the Congress," Malyshevskii concluded.

The first Soviet response to the U.S. report came from the news agency TASS which on Sunday described it as "a fresh propaganda fraud."

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# Beirut hostages face Christmas in captivity as church envoy leaves

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Western hostages in Lebanon faced Christmas in captivity after British church envoy Terry Waite left Tuesday saying further steps were needed to free four kidnapped Americans.

"The negotiations remain at a critical stage," Mr. Waite told a news conference before leaving for London. "They require continued and sustained effort... further steps are required."

He said he had passed Christmas messages to the Americans from their families and put "fair and just" proposals for their release in face-to-face talks with their captors.

But Mr. Waite declined to say if he had seen the Americans during his four-day visit.

It was the third freedom mission to Beirut in two months by Mr. Waite, personal envoy and troubleshooter of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, spiritual head of the Anglican Church.

The bearded, bearded Waite said he was leaving to hold talks with other unspecified parties.

The Americans — journalist Terry Anderson, hospital director David Jacobson, university professor Thomas Sutherland and Catholic priest Lawrence Jenko — appealed in a message to President Reagan last month to have them home by Christmas.

Four Frenchmen, a Briton and an Italian are also missing in Lebanon after being abducted earlier this year.

As Mr. Waite headed home, the wife of French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann was flying in from Paris with other family members on a symbolic visit to be close to him over Christmas.

"Be patient," she told her husband in a message broadcast by a Lebanese radio station before she left. "Many people are helping us. In a while it will all be over."

Two French envoys left Monday after a six-day visit carrying "precise demands" for the release of the Frenchmen.

Islamic Jihad (holy war) has claimed the kidnapping of the French and American hostages, but it is unclear whether all are held by the same group.

Islamic Jihad has threatened to kill the Americans unless Washington persuades Kuwait to release 17 Arabs jailed for bombings two years ago. Kuwait has refused to free them.

Mr. Waite said the Americans' captors had declined his request to meet families of the imprisoned Arabs.

He added "I have been able to put to the captors proposals which I believe would lead us through that problem without compromising fundamental principles."

## Mitterrand to spend Christmas in Egypt

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand will fly to Egypt at President Hosni Mubarak's invitation for a private Christmas visit, a presidential spokeswoman has said.

She refused to give details about his date of departure or return, saying the visit was strictly private. But Mr. Mitterrand would be in France for the New Year, she said.

The French and Egyptian leaders maintain a close dialogue and met in Paris in September for their 11th meeting.

## 'EC recognises only Cyprus government'

NICOSIA (AP) — Claude Cheysson, the European Community's commissioner for North-South relations, on Tuesday defended the EC's recognition of the Cyprus government, denouncing the establishment of a breakaway state in the Turkish-occupied part of the island.

"There is a fundamental commitment by every member of the Community to defend integrity, independence and the sovereignty and the non-alignment of Cyprus," Mr. Cheysson told a Nicosia press conference.

"Should the Community accept an infringement on sovereignty,

on independence or the integrity of Cyprus, or any part of Cyprus, how could we keep defending the same principles elsewhere in the world," he said. "For us this is a fundamental commitment that such principles should be respected. There is no possibility of compromise," he added.

Mr. Cheysson arrived on the war-torn island the previous day to negotiate the customs union of the small east Mediterranean country with the EC.

His defence of the integrity of Cyprus was an answer to Turkish criticism of the current negotiations with the Cyprus government and the refusal of the

Community to recognise the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in Northern Cyprus.

"The Turks are not members of the Community and their opinion is that of a country foreign to the Community," he said.

"It is not the Turks who decide for Cyprus; but the Cyprus government. They are free to express their opinion but I don't see how this should matter in our relations with Cyprus, or of Cyprus with the EC," he added.

Mr. Cheysson clarified however that the EC financial aid to Cyprus "is for the benefit of the whole people and both parts of the island."

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principles." But although his hopes of getting the captives out for Christmas have been dashed, Mr. Waite stressed: "We're not deadlocked... I firmly believe that a solution can and will be found."

"We swim in very complicated waters," he said. "The negotiations remain at a critical stage. As I have always said, they are difficult, dangerous and require continued and sustained effort."

He stressed that he is edging forward in his secret negotiations with the kidnappers and that "progress has been made."

He noted: "I firmly believe that a solution to this problem is possible and I continue to work for it."

Mr. Waite said he will report to Archbishop Robert Runcie in London and have contacts with "other parties who are involved in this matter."

He did not say who he would be consulting or where and gave no indication when he will return to Beirut.

At the airport, Mr. Waite bought last-minute Christmas gifts in the duty-free store — a walkie-talkie for his son Mark, 14, and perfume for his wife, Frances.

Mohammad Hmeideh, chief of airport security for the Shiite Amal militia, gave him a gift of a miniature cedar tree, Lebanon's national symbol.

Mr. Waite, shaking the militia chief's hand, said: "You are a friend. Thank you very much and Merry Christmas."

At his news conference, Mr. Waite noted that the Kuwait factor remains a stumbling block.

Kuwait refuses to free any of the bombers, three of whom have been sentenced to death, for the December 1983 attacks in which five people were killed.

"The negotiations remain at a critical stage," he said, shortly before leaving for the airport.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Waite met with British Ambassador John Gray, but he gave no details of what they discussed.

Mr. Gray drove into Muslim west Beirut from the British embassy in the city's Christian east side accompanied by several bodyguards armed with automatic weapons.

Mr. Waite launched his mission on Nov. 13 after four of the six Americans missing in Lebanon wrote to Runcie appealing for his intervention.

Asked if he was carrying new proposals from the kidnappers to the U.S. government, Mr. Waite said: "There are steps to be taken... which I hope to take in the next few days."

In his statement, Mr. Waite stressed: "I have made it clear that, as a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, here on a humanitarian mission, I cannot and will not be party to any solution which undermines fundamental principles of justice."

Denktash flies son in coma to Ankara

NICOSIA (R) — Raif Denktash, 34-year-old son of Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, was flown to Turkey in a coma Wednesday with injuries sustained in a car crash Monday night.

Turkish-Cypriot officials said Mr. Denktash and his wife arrived in Ankara with their son on a special military aircraft sent to Northern Cyprus by Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Search continues for Saudi flood victims

BAHRAIN (R) — More rain was expected in Saudi Arabia as the search continued for 31 people missing after the worst rains for half a century caused floods which killed at least 32 others.

Officials in Riyadh said civil defence units were still searching for the missing after five days of torrential rain brought flooding to the northwest corner of the largely desert kingdom.

At least 12 people were killed at Tabuk, 50 kilometres from the Saudi-Jordanian border, and 15 died when a 12-kilometre wide wall of water swept through the Olla region and other areas around the holy city of Medina further south.

The floods swept up cars and bedouin tents, uprooted trees and drowned livestock, the officials said. Tents, blankets and foodstuffs were rushed to the area, and the situation was now under control, they added.

Weather experts predicted more rain in central and western areas of the country.

Moderate winter rainfall is normal in Saudi Arabia's more mountainous areas, but the storms which began last Tuesday, with winds of up to 80 kilometres an hour, were the worst for 50 years.

Mubarak urges U.S. to pursue peace efforts

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt is looking to the United States to pursue "effective efforts" toward a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, President Hosni Mubarak said in a Christmas message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The friendly tone of the message appeared to indicate that Mr. Mubarak has put behind him a recent crisis between Cairo and Washington over the interception by U.S. warplanes of an Egyptian plane carrying hijackers of the Italian ship Achille Lauro from Egypt to Tunisia.

"Our people, having started the peace march with the positive participation of your friendly people, are looking forward with confidence to the continuation of effective efforts to push forward the process aimed at achieving a speedy and durable peace in the Middle East," Mr. Mubarak's message said.

The state-owned Middle East News Agency distributed an Arabic text of the message on Tuesday, and the Associated Press translated it.

"We are certain that the relations of amity and fruitful cooperation between our two friendly countries will witness greater development and growth for their common benefit and in the service of international security and peace," Mr. Mubarak said.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio said the United States has asked Israel to show flexibility in resolving a ranking border dispute with Egypt which could hold up Middle East peace talks.

# Mideast peace talks are closer than ever, U.S. official says

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A senior U.S. State Department official said on Tuesday he thinks the opportunities for direct peace negotiations are closer than at any time since the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was achieved.

The official — in a year-end wrap-up on the Middle East peace process — said, "We think looking back on the past year that there really was significant progress in the peace process." But he noted that, "There is still a long way to go."

The achievements of the past year include:

— An agreement by the parties to work toward prompt and direct negotiations within an appropriate international context;

— An agreement by the parties not to seek a guaranteed outcome in advance;

— An acceptance of an international forum by the parties as a way of facilitating direct negotiations; and

— A decision by the parties to put the issue of a preliminary U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on the sidelines.

He also said, "We have cleared away a lot of underbrush."

Two key, but not simple, issues remain he said. One deals with the shape of the international forum and the other with the nature of Palestinian representation at the conference and in negotiations, according to the Reagan administration official. "We aren't minimising the difficulties involved, nor would we be so foolishly as to guarantee that they are going to be resolved any time soon."

"However," he said, "the basic conditions for progress are there."

"We remain convinced that both Prime Minister Peres and King Hussein remain committed to the goal of direct negotiations in this international context, are committed to moving ahead without a guaranteed outcome, and are committed to making every effort to achieve that goal."

Regardless of the Reagan administration efforts to bring the sides together, he said, "It is the desires of the parties themselves that is key and as long as the parties are driven by a commitment to resolve their differences, that's what's going to spell success for the process."

"The process has been incremental," he said. "We've said, since the beginning, over a year ago, when we started this phase, that there would be no dramatic breakthrough (but rather) that progress would be steady and we think the pattern is going to continue."

"The American position is very clear. We continue to see direct negotiations between the parties as the only productive and realistic way to proceed. An international conference, and international context, of some sort is acceptable to us. But only in terms of an event which leads to direct and meaningful negotiations between the parties."

The senior official said, "We have a strong commitment to assist the parties to begin negotiations and we are going to continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead." However despite American efforts, "Ultimate success will depend on the commitment of the parties themselves," he said.

In the question and answer period the official was asked about Soviet conference participation. He said, "We have always been sceptical about Soviet participation," and about "Soviet willingness to play a constructive role in the Middle East." He added, "Obviously, it is going to be up to the parties themselves to decide who participates in terms of an international conference."

On the Palestinian question, the official said U.S. policy has always been that "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people have to be addressed in any agreement concerning the final status of the West Bank and Gaza. We have also said that it is our view that there has to be Palestinian participation at every stage of the negotiating process." He also noted that American policy has been that any agreement "on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza should receive the prior consent of the inhabitants of the territories."

The official was also asked about the Soviets supplying Libya with ground-to-air missiles. He said the missiles are not yet in place, but preparations are underway. He also said, "We've made very clear publicly to the Soviet Union our very strong views that this is highly destabilising to introduce those missile systems into Libya. He also stressed that it is 'contrary to the interests of peace and stability in the region.'

On Syrian-Israeli tensions over Lebanon, he said the situation is "still tense." He added, "we've been engaged in active consultations with all the parties to encourage... everyone to avoid any further escalatory steps that could just lead to further danger and instability in the region."

Asked about the U.S. position on recent congressional proposals to cut funding for UNIFIL (United Nations Truce Forces in Lebanon) by \$18 million, the official said the U.S. government regretted that action and "we're trying to see if we can find ways to restore the funds." Although it may be difficult, he said, the administration "would try to find the money to keep the contribution going beyond April."

He was also asked if the U.S. would try to force a deadline on negotiations in the Mideast. He answered, "There are times when you have better opportunities than others. And this is a time when we have a better opportunity, and there are a number of reasons why we believe that now is the time of opportunity in the Middle East, especially when you look at the attitudes of the parties involved and their own commitment to the process."

In reply to questions on the proposal for an international conference, and statements last week by other U.S. officials, the official said:

"Most of (the questions) we don't have answer to yet because we are not that far along yet. There are some things which are agreed, or some points that we essential to American policy. Everyone agrees that there has to be some kind of an international context. All parties agree. It is interesting referring back to the question about the U.N. Prime Minister Peres has talked about the five current members of the Security Council, King Hussein has as well. Obviously that is one possibility, having some kind of U.N. involvement."

"Our position is clear in that whatever shape this best takes, it has to lead to direct negotiations among the parties. Therefore, it is our view that the conference cannot impose its will upon the individual parties. The parties themselves have to make determinations through negotiations what they are going to do to make this process work. So the general outlines of what this best is are there. And from our viewpoint what its authority should be — we have very strong views on what its authority should be. But when you get into things like who is going to chair, who issues the invitations, what are going to be the parliamentary rules that govern it — we're just not that far along yet. What we are doing right now is engage in discussions with all the parties on these very issues, on the two key issues: one, the form of this conference or context, and the second, the issue of Palestinian representation. These are the two issues that we are continuing to work on. We are having discussions, but we don't have answers yet. I wish we did. Because if we had answers to that, the issue of Palestinian representation, we could start tomorrow. But we're just not there yet."

"On the peace conference and the umbrella, although not certain about who the other senior administration sources, I'm confident that he was not talking about when a peace conference, talked about the concept of a peace conference umbrella, he was not talking about a unified Arab delegation. The position has always been that the parties directly involved in the area should be invited to the conference, which would of course include Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt. But he did not mean to imply that therefore we'd be in favour of a unified Arab delegation. We have always seen the direct negotiations, as being between the states directly involved."

"We're still in a position where we think that, especially when you look at the process that has been made this past year, the progress has been made really with the two sides working through us and without any American ideas put forward. But the general acceptance of an international context, the acceptance of the Palestinian role in every stage, the agreement to put aside the issue of the U.S.-Palestinian meeting, the idea of putting aside the Murphy meeting and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, all that really came about from the two parties, with us playing an active, intermediary role."

"The conditions that we have established for a dialogue with the PLO have been unchanged for 10 years."

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION 23:05 Evening Show Continued 23:57 News Headlines 24:00 Close Down

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran  
17:30 Cartoons  
18:00 Children's Programme  
18:30 Agricultural Programme  
19:00 Programme Review  
19:30 News in Arabic  
20:00 Arabic Series  
20:30 Programme Review  
21:00 Documentary  
21:30 Wrestling  
22:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme  
18:30 News in French  
19:15 Le théâtre de Edward  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Three's Company  
21:10 Comedy: "Yes Minister"  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Remington Steele

RADIO JORDAN 85.5 MHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 MHz, SW Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music  
07:30 Newsweek  
08:00 Morning Show  
08:30 News Summary  
09:00 Morning Show Cont.  
10:00 Pop Session  
10:30 News Summary  
11:00 Pop Session Cont.  
11:30 News Summary  
12:00 News Bulletin  
12:30 The Young Sound  
13:00 Concert Hour  
14:00 News Summary  
14:30 Old Favorites  
15:00 Jordan Weekly  
15:30 Pop Session  
16:00 News Summary  
16:30 Over a Cup of Tea  
17:00 News Desk  
17:30 Date with a Star  
18:00 Evening Show  
18:30 News Summary  
19:00 Evening Show Cont.  
19:30 News Summary  
20:00 Evening Show Continued  
20:30 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 News 11:00 The World 11:05 Kites on the Keys 12:00 News Summary: The State of the Nation 12:30 Johnson and Chaplin 12:45 Brotherhood of Brass 13:00 Jordan News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 Music Show 13:25 A Letter from Wales 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 D.H. Lawrence 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Commentary 16:15 Rock Salad 16:45 The World Today 16:50 World News 19:00 A Letter from Wales 19:15 Monitor 19:30 Assignment 19:35 Waveguide 19:40 Book Choice 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek

VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

\* A painting exhibition by Khalid Khuri at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Dec. 30).

\* A flower arrangement exhibition (flowers made of ceramics, copper, plastic, silk) by Yusef Abu Ghazal at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 30).

\* An exhibition of water colour paintings and graphics at the Fine Arts Association (until Dec. 27).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel: 6610267  
American Centre: 644371  
British Council: 6361478  
French Cultural Centre: 6370909  
Goethe Institute: 6419992  
Soviet Cultural Centre: 6442023  
Spanish Cultural Centre: 6240409  
Turkish Cultural Centre: 6397777  
Hayat Arts Centre: 6671816  
Y.W.C.A.: 641793  
Y.W.M.C.A.: 644251  
Amman Municipal Library: 637111  
University of Jordan Library: 843555

MUSEUMS

Pollitzer Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Clotel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Lebanon, Jabel Leishan. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Martyrs' Museum (Martyrs' Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel: 624590.  
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabel Leishan, 637440.  
Jabel Hussein, 661757.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) (Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678906.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Asrafieh, 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Asrafieh, 775261.  
St. Barbara Church (Syrian Orthodox) Asrafieh, 771751.  
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational), meet at Southern Baptist School in Shamsani, 677534.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.  
Rainbow Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:07 Fajr  
06:35 Sunrise  
12:35 Dhuhr  
14:35 Asr  
16:34 Maghrib  
18:04 Isha

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport Ltd. (08) 33300-5, where it should always be verified.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.  
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.  
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.  
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eight Circle, Tel: 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

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Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabel Leishan, 637440.  
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ARRIVALS

07:30 London, Larnaca (BA)  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## CSCC opens branch in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) is opening a new branch in Aqaba, according to CSCC Director Jamil Farahneh. The new branch will begin operations Wednesday and will offer services to government employees in southern Jordan.

## A Christmas wish for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — A Christmas message from a group of children in the U.S. city of San Francisco was received here Tuesday. The message was addressed to Jordanian children and contained good wishes on the occasion and wished Jordan a new year of peace and progress. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the message also contained a call to all parents around the globe to direct their efforts towards enhancing the cause of world peace.

## FZC to obtain land at Aqaba port

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has promised to assign a piece of land near the containers harbour at Aqaba port for the benefit of the Free Zones Corporation (FZC). The land will be used to store goods and will be considered FZC territory, said FZC Director Yassin Al Kayed after a meeting with ARA Director General Mohammad Sa'ad Abu Nowar. Mr. Kayed said that the land will enable the FZC to handle a larger volume of goods on their way in or out of the country and those for re-export.

## Dhiban municipality to spend JD 767,000

MADABA (Petra) — Dhiban municipal council in the Madaba District will spend JD 767,000 on projects for improving public services between 1986 and 1990. The town mayor said that the plan for the projects has been finalised and entails spending funds for roads, a public garden, a car park, the purchase of buses, building retaining walls for the streets, and improving the approaches to the town.

## DLDNA, AHSF to coordinate activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) and the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF) have signed an agreement on cooperation and coordination of activities and programmes, especially in the exchange of books, publications, periodicals and information. The agreement was signed by DLDNA Director Ahmad Sharbas and AHSF Director General Assad Abdul Rahman. AHSF recently established a public library and an information bank which will be formally opened to the public at a ceremony to be attended by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai on Jan. 8th.

## House passes travel tax law

(Continued from page 1)  
stand although it had already drafted a list of proposed amendments.  
In Tuesday's session, the House approved a temporary law of 1979 on the Amman Development Corporation (ADC) and another of 1976 on electricity.  
The approved General Electricity law stipulates that the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will be part of the Ministry of Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources.  
Nine of eleven draft laws sent to the House from the government were referred by the House to the Financial Committee and the other two to the Legal Committee. Two suggestions by deputies were referred to the Administrative Committee.

## Health committee devises JD 63m five year plan

By Simonetta Carr  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Health was one of the 23 sectors taken into consideration by 23 committees entrusted with the preparation of the new five-year plan. Headed by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Health Suleiman Subhi, the health committee discussed all the points concerning the JD 63 million health plan for the Kingdom and then presented their plan to the steering committee of the Ministry of Planning for approval.  
A member of the steering committee told the Jordan Times that the plan has now been returned to the health committee for changes and it will then be discussed by heads of all the different committees to ensure correlation between the different sectors to avoid overlaps. The next step will then be the commitment of the plan to a General Assembly of about 400 people from all sectors, including agencies and the private sector, and then to a higher committee who will afterwards pass it on to the Cabinet for final approval.  
During the formulation of the plan, the health committee also reviewed the previous five-year plan and a source at the Ministry of Planning told the Jordan Times that the past five years have shown good progress in specialised medical services. Primary health care has also made great steps, increasing Mother and Child Centres from 88 to 173. More beds have also been added in all hospitals, a total of 1,199 new beds. "This figure brings the number of beds to approximately 18.8 per 10,000 population which is not far from our final goal of 20 beds per 10,000," Dr. Ghazi Shellaat, a member of the health committee, told the Jordan Times.

## Nurses

Other improvements during the last five years include a new nursing college established in Zarqa and 11 new nursing assistant schools. Nurses, however, are still in very short supply in the country. Statistics for 1983 show that the Ministry of Health had 313 nurses and 173 midwives, the Royal Medical Services 540 nurses and 20 midwives, the University Hospital 257 nurses and midwives, the private sector 260 nurses and 83 midwives and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) 20 nurses and 5 mid-

wives. An increase of 10 per cent on these figures was estimated for 1984. The aim is to reach the proportions of one nurse/1,000 population and 1 midwife/4,000 population by 1990. A number of 1,494 more nurses and 317 more midwives is needed in order to reach that goal.  
The review of the past five years also showed an improvement and increase in interest in medical training in all fields. It also indicated large growth in the private sector which improved both in quantity and quality over the last five years as never before.  
The pharmaceutical industry and pharmaceutical services have also improved with a more uniform distribution of pharmacies, particularly in the rural areas. Jordan now has five pharmaceutical companies producing high quality drugs at competitive prices and exporting to other Middle East countries.  
The weaknesses that surfaced during the past five years include a lack of proper administration on all levels, except for the Royal Medical Services, as well as a lack of coordination between the different health sectors, causing overlap and duplication of efforts.

## Lack of funds

There has been also a lack of proper funds since the money allotted to the health delivery system in Jordan does not reach the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommendation of five per cent of the total budget, due to the country's very limited resources. The ministry budget for 1983, for example, was only 2.4 per cent of the total budget.

Besides, the previous plan did not take into account budgeting some money towards continuing medical education in all sectors.  
The plan also pointed out some specific concerns concerning the health situation in Jordan, such as the rapid increase of growth rate (3.8 per cent), the high average number of family members (6.7) and the high concentration in the major cities (almost 70 per cent of the population). Positive traits are the relatively small area of the Kingdom and the good communication system which allows Jordanians to receive adequate medical services in most cases.  
Another well-known weakness in the health situation in Jordan is the bad distribution of the large number of doctors who often prefer to practise in the large cities.  
A source at the Ministry of Planning explained that the longer term aim of the health sector in Jordan is to reach the WHO goal of "Health for All by the year 2000." Other goals presented in the five-year plan include improvement of quality and quantity of primary and secondary health services by increasing the number of health centres and the number of hospital beds. The primary health centres have been discussed in great detail and extra importance has been given to general practitioners in the delivery of primary health care, the source said.  
Another point covered in the five-year plan is a complete reconsideration of the training facilities, in order to supply all health centres with good technicians, nurses and midwives. Continuing education will then be arranged together with the local universities, hospitals and societies.

## National insurance scheme

The need for a programme directed to the general public was also discussed in order to convince them to spend some money on health, since the government's resources are really not sufficient. A national insurance scheme was looked upon as a solution to this problem, by collecting part of everyone's fees so that everyone can benefit of a free medical assistance. This solution will take time and investment of funds at first, but the committee is giving it priority as one of their immediate ambitions.  
The committee also studied the conditions of all hospitals in Jordan, including bed occupancies and rates, and drew some interesting conclusions. First of all, they noticed that the Amman area is in no need of extra beds, since most private hospitals registered a very low bed occupancy. The answer, once again, will be in coordinating efforts so that the patients can be equally distributed among the different hospitals.  
The committee then divided the various hospitals into categories. Those belonging to category A, such as the King Hussein Medical Centre, the Khalidi Hospital and a few others, need no refurbishing or improvements. For the other hospitals, a plan for their improvement was then laid out, where some will be just refurbished, and others almost rebuilt from scratch. In addition, the construction of 51 primary health centres was planned. These projects will take the majority of the JD 63 million budgeted for health for the next five years.



A busy day in one of Jordan's health clinics

## JEA begins supplying power to Syria

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan agreed on Dec. 12 to provide the southern parts of Syria with extra high voltage electricity at a rate of about 1,000,000 kilowatt-hours (KWH) per day.  
The step falls under a Jordanian-Syrian agreement signed in 1976 to exchange electricity between the two countries as needed by either state, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah.  
Under the 1976 agreement, Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) set up two power lines connecting Irbid's power station with Syrian stations, Mr. Arafah told the Jordan Times on Tuesday. He said the first power line of 66

kilovolts (kv) was finished in 1977 and started operation in March of the same year. The extra high voltage power line of 230 kv was completed two years later.  
Syria provided the IDEC with an average of 60,000 KWH per day to cover the IDEC electricity generating deficit at that time, Mr. Arafah said.  
He added that both countries agreed on monthly payment terms which are re-evaluated every three months in light of oil prices on the international market.  
Mr. Arafah said the JEA charges Syria the same rate as its Jordanian customers (IDEC and Amman).  
The IDEC was recently connected with JEA networks and currently enjoys a surplus of electricity output, so the company's service will not be affected by the

supply of power to Syria.  
Between 1977 and 1979 the IDEC used about 20,000,000 KWH energy from Syria at a power rate of 7 megawatt, that is, as much as Syria will currently be provided approximately every 20 days.  
To achieve high efficiency in transportation of energy, the IDEC has set up a substation and a transformer at a rating of 100 megawatt and with a transformation ratio from 132 to 230 kilovolts, Mr. Arafah said.  
Syria is interested in doubling its current supply of electricity from Jordan, Mr. Arafah said, adding that such a step requires careful consideration since plant auxiliaries and other facilities should be installed.  
Power stations are currently working round the clock as energy generating capacity is at the peak in order to meet the consumption rate.  
However, pressure on the plants will be lifted after the Aqaba thermal station begins operation in six months.

## Students in Tunis may sit for Jordanian tawjihi exam

TUNIS (Petra) — Third-year secondary school students studying at Al Quds school in Tunis will be allowed to sit for the Jordanian "tawjihi" examinations, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali announced here Tuesday. Speaking after the conclusion of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) meeting here, Mr. Majali said that agreement was reached on this during his talks with officials from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which runs the school.  
Students studying textbooks provided by the Jordanian Ministry of Education will be allowed to sit for the coming 1985-1986 general secondary examinations, the minister said.

## Wijdan Ali portrait of the artist in motion

By J.H. Boteler  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Princess Wijdan Ali's art exhibition, currently appearing at the Petra Bank gallery, is her first for four years. But anyone who remembers her earlier exhibition may be a little surprised at her latest work. Gone are the flowing desert scenes and scapes that dominated in 1981, replaced by an exclusive concentration on the art of calligraphy in its varied forms.  
The first impression on seeing these paintings — all of them, worked in oils and none of them, with two notable exceptions, much more than two feet square — is of a boldly executed calligraphic design set against a bright, single colour background. Yellow is a recurring colour throughout the exhibition, suggesting that the artist's previous interest in the desert still has an influence on her work.  
On closer inspection however, it can be seen that the background in each painting is created by using several differing shades of the same colour, with extra tone being achieved through the addition of fine lines of cream or pink, the whole being carefully and painstakingly built up in layers with a palette-knife, by a technique developed by the Princess herself. The end result is highly textured compositions that hold the eye.  
Prominent in the exhibition are two stunning and massive renderings of the Ayat El Kursi, the Koranic verse invoked for travelling, the birth of children, and good fortune. Embroidered with multi-coloured patterns, they are highly disciplined, and almost mathematical in their precision and symmetry.  
The Princess explained the reasons for the abrupt shifts in her

## Hassan sets guidelines for Balqa 5-year plan

SALT (Petra) — In a speech delivered Tuesday before a special committee charged with preparing a five-year development plan for Balqa Governorate, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan urged concerned authorities to lay down a thorough plan for the most effective exploitation of land resources by utilising well drawn maps of the highlands overlooking the Jordan Valley region.

He said that in regional planning one has to consider three dimensions: the qualitative dimension, which entails introducing changes to the social and developmental institutions in the region; the venue dimension, which defines what development projects that should be carried out in each area; and the third dimension, that related to time, which entails expectations about when projects can be carried out.  
He also said that the third dimension can be of a long term nature, flexible and liable to changes; of a medium term nature which is more detailed and reveals practical steps that are to be taken; and of a short-term nature and which involves steps designed to help achieve the long term projects.  
Due consideration should be given to regional planning if the country is to avoid the emergence of inequality in living standards which in turn can have harmful consequences on the general social, political and economic aspects of life in Jordan, Prince Hassan pointed out.  
He said that it was noticed that major development projects have been so far centred in major cities, causing the cities to attract the larger section of the population and their activities. This tendency has not only caused migration to urban regions but brought about a general neglect of rural areas and eventually caused more problems to the cities, Prince Hassan said.  
He also said that a region should not be considered as a local unit, but as one reflecting the country as a whole and that local and provincial governments should address themselves to collecting information and data essential for preparing a national strategy.  
Also addressing the meeting was Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour who said that a draft plan for developing Balqa Governorate in the coming five years will be revised with the purpose of absorbing new realities and to make it more in harmony with a comprehensive plan for Jordan.  
He referred to the essential elements of this plan and said that his ministry will give due care to comprehensive planning in addition to the development of each separate region.  
Another speaker was Balqa Governor Mijhem Al Khreisha who presented the draft five-year plan and referred to three main areas that will be developed.  
These are the Balqa Ghor region which is divided into seven units, the Middle Balqa region which also is divided into seven units and the Balqa plains which are of four units. Each of these units contains a cluster of villages and are regarded as a basic nucleus for regional organisation of services, Mr. Khreisha said.  
He said that three development councils have been set up comprising local representatives of private and public sectors.  
These councils have studied proposals from different ministries and public organisations about the projects in the Balqa region and put forth proposals of their own. The whole draft plan for the Balqa region contained both proposals and also investments to the total value of

JD263 million, according to Mr. Khreisha. He said that 40 per cent of the investments will be in the agricultural sector and entail planting forests, developing rain-fed lands, reclamation of semi-arid regions and planting fruit trees.  
Investment in the industrial sector is nearly 6.6 per cent and entails building a factory for cement mixing, another for processing natural fertilisers, a third for canning olive fruit and processing its products, and setting up an industrial estate, Mr. Khreisha said.  
He said provisions were made for investments in tourism projects such as building hotels and chalets at the cost of JD 900,000; investments in education will be nearly JD 14.4 million, in health JD 3.3 million, sports and social development JD 9 million, roads JD 22.4 million, public services JD 9 million, water projects and irrigation networks JD 80 million, energy and electricity JD 1.4 million and housing, which entails building 575 housing units, JD 110 million.  
Another speaker at the meeting was Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour who outlined the municipality's plans in the agricultural sector, afforestation, and developing pastures at a cost of JD 2.5 million, building poultry slaughter house at a cost of JD 2.9 million, building an industrial estate at a cost of JD 3.3 million, and a factory for canning olive fruit at a cost of JD 400,000.  
He said that tourism projects for Salt will cost JD 778,000 but the general services projects for public services, social development and production will cost a total of JD 83 million.  
Mr. Abdullah Al Udwan spoke at the meeting about different projects in the Balqa Ghor districts, and was followed by Mr. Mohammad Al Faour, mayor of Ain Al Basha.  
The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, directors of government departments and other officials.

## Jordan and Iraq agree on agricultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq signed an agreement Tuesday on bilateral cooperation in agricultural fields. Under the agreement Jordanian teams will be visiting Iraq to look into projects for breeding fish for the benefit of similar projects in Jordan, especially since Iraq is carrying out major fish breeding projects in cooperation with companies from Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Mauritania.  
The agreement was signed by Agriculture Minister Ahmad Dakhnan and his Iraqi counterpart Siddiq Abdul Latif.

## U.S. Congressman leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz left Amman Tuesday for the West Bank and Israel, ending a two-day visit during which he met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a number of senior Jordanian officials.  
Mr. Solarz also met a group of Palestinian scholars and journalists and discussed with them the latest developments in the Middle East and issues related to the Palestinian question.  
Mr. Solarz is a ranking member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and is considered one of the most influential figures who shape Congressional policy on the Middle East. He is also a staunch supporter of Israel.

## Expansion of Oman-Jordan trade discussed

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the 63rd meeting of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture held here discussed with Omani officials a number of subjects related to the development of trade between Oman and Jordan. The talks covered the prospect of exporting Jordanian products to Oman and the Omani officials welcomed the idea and said they would do whatever they could to strengthen bilateral ties, according to delegation leader Hamdi Al Tabba, who is also president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.  
The delegation earlier attended the 63rd meeting, in which 20 other Arab delegations are participating.

hitecture. This is rubbish. What needs to be done is for our schools and universities to start teaching courses in the history of Arabic and Islamic art. All other aspects of Islam are well-covered by our educational establishments, but not art, and this omission is tragic.  
Aside from the paintings the exhibition also displays a collection of porcelain plates, which the Princess painted and then refired herself. These are exquisite works, ranging from elaborate, colourful and intricate designs to simple and boldly-striking blue calligraphic strokes on a plain white background.  
Surprisingly, the Princess only took this work up a few months ago. Partly because, she explained with a laugh, her studio is too cold in the winter for her to do any serious painting, and also because it enabled her to continue her art whilst in the midst of her family at home. An innately modest woman, she gives credit to her children for telling her when to stop embellishing a particular plate, but she surely had her tongue very firmly in cheek when she dismissed this work as only being brought about by her husband's request for a new dinner service!  
Whilst her work with porcelain will probably always be a sideline to her painting, it is to be hoped that she continues and develops it, showing as it does yet another aspect of her varied skills. The present exhibition runs until Tuesday, December 31st.  
You can rest assured that when this talented and caring artist next stages an exhibition in Amman, it will herald a new and interesting departure from her previous work.







# Vatican Christmas appeals to people of many nations

By Mercer Cross  
National Geographic

VATICAN CITY — By the thousands they stream into St. Peter's Square, from all parts of the world, eagerly queuing up before the home sanctuary of Roman Catholicism to join in a colourful observance of Christ's birth.

The throngs begin to assemble hours before the Mass, celebrated by Pope John Paul II, begins at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Tuxedoed "volunteers," escorted up to 25,000 ticket-holding visitors to their seats in portable chairs arranged around the high altar of the basilica.

The gold in the mosaics of the ceiling and the great dome glows in rich splendour under lights turned on only for special occasions. Multicoloured flowers add a festive touch to the cavernous baroque structure.

## Carols in Latin

As the Pope mounts the altar,

the excited crowd rises and applauds, then grows silent as the service begins. The Vatican choir sings, in Latin, the music of the church. A "people's choir" sings carols from another part of the basilica, creating a stereophonic effect.

The international crowd joins the pontiff both in prayers and songs, following text and music in illustrated booklets distributed at the start of the service. The basilica rings with words and music recited or sung in Italian, English, Latin, German, Polish, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Indian, and Hausa.

At the conclusion of the Mass, the Pope takes a carved wooden statue of the Christ child from before the altar, carries it to a crèche in a side chapel, and places it in a crib.

Under John Paul II, "there's a much greater spirit of hospitality" at the midnight Mass than in the past, says Monsignor Thomas Banick, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and former vice rector of the Vatican's North American College.

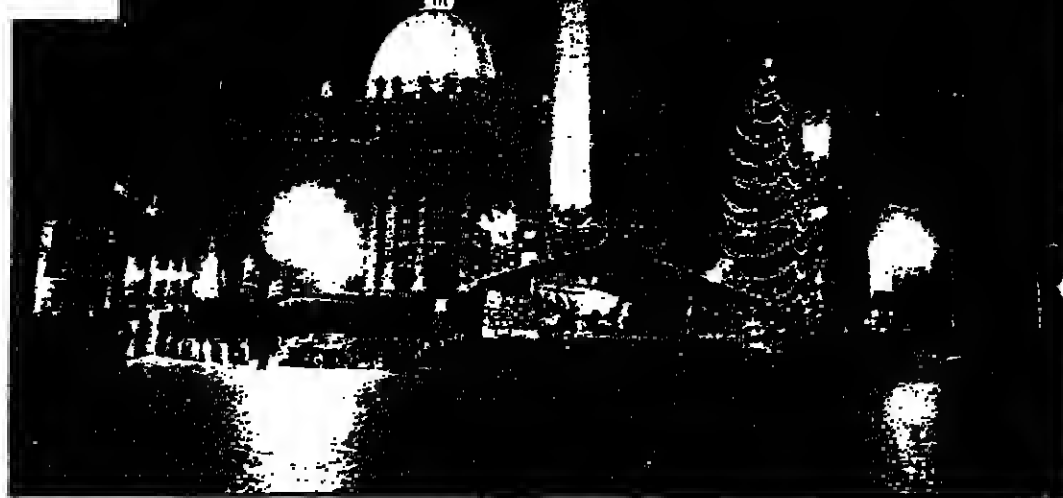
"He has what I would call a populist sensitivity to ordinary persons."

John Paul II, who is credited by Vatican officials with the increased use of flowers at the Mass, has also left his imprint on other facets of the church's celebration of Christmas.

Starting Christmas Eve, the centre of the massive square, near its Egyptian obelisk, is radiant with the lights from a tall evergreen that has been trucked in with fanfare from West Germany. Near the tree is a large crèche, also from Germany, occupied by figures of the Holy Family, 1-1/2 times life-size.

## Children bring statues

Like his predecessors, the Pope celebrates another Mass in the basilica on Christmas morning. The Vatican's observances begin before Christmas and extend beyond it. A few weeks before Christmas, Pope John Paul II, in celebration of the Feast of St. Nic-



Christmas in St. Peter's Square: An illuminated crèche, flanked by a gaily decorated evergreen from West Germany, greets yuletide visitors to the Vatican. In the background is the Michelangelo-designed dome of the great basilica, where the

giving among European Catholics, the pontiff again blesses children and their families in the square.

On Christmas Eve 1984, John Paul II, who is Polish, held an emotional audience for a group of Polish families and their brightly costumed children. A Vatican spokesman says it is not known if the Pope will have a similar audience this year.

usands of worshippers from around the world attend masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The decorations in the square are innovations of John Paul II, who has been Pope since 1978.

# Rivalry among church groups at Christ's birthplace

By Galina Vromen  
Reuters

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Marking the place where Jesus was born, the Church of the Nativity has been plagued by rivalry among Christian groups competing for privileges to clean and repair the site.

The 1,600-year-old church off Bethlehem's town square receives thousands of pilgrims each Christmas. But few get a glimpse of what happens behind the scenes among Greek Orthodox, Armenians and Roman Catholics, who all claim rights to the site.

Last year, police broke up a brawl between Greek Orthodox and Armenian priests fighting over who should clean a wall above the entrance to the church grotto, reputed site of Jesus' manger.

"Cleaning and repairing implies rights of ownership. So it's more than just a matter of who cleans what," said George Hintlian, spokesman for the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Israeli officials who oversee religious sites in the occupied Arab West Bank say the dispute may turn violent again this year during the annual cleaning at the end of December.

"We have held countless meetings to try and get an agreement but things do not look at all rosy," said Daniel Rossing, in charge of Christian communities division at the Religious Affairs Ministry.

It is not the only dispute among the three groups who claim parts of the church, from where mid-night mass is held on Christmas eve to television viewers around the world.

For years, the groups bickered over the right to fix the leaky roof. The Greek Orthodox quietly repaired the roof two years ago in a move the Armenians and Catholics still grumble about.

Intricate rules regulate the upkeep of the church, built in 326 by Roman Emperor Constantine and believed to be the oldest Christian site in regular use for worship.

Documents drawn up in 1852 under the Ottoman Turks and detailed further in 1929 under the British mandate are the basis for determining rights to clean, repair and worship.

"The regulations go down to the centimetre in terms of space and minutes in terms of the (religious) services held by each group in the church," said Rossing.

For example, the Armenians clean the lower five metres of one chapel wall and the Greeks the

upper part — a difficult task for the Greeks who must lean their ladders above the Armenian area so as not to touch it.

Last year's scuffle, in which a priest was slightly injured, came when Greeks cleaning a nearby wall were challenged by Armenians, who said the Greeks had forfeited their right to the task by neglecting the hard-to-reach stretch for years.

"We are sorry about what happened last year. But the church is our inheritance. We cannot concede any of our rights to the Armenians," Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I told Reuters.

Conflict has frequently surrounded the church, which was largely destroyed in the fourth century and rebuilt in its present form by Emperor Justinian in the sixth century.

Faced with destruction during a 614 Persian invasion that ruined many Christian sites, it was saved because the Persians were intrigued by a mosaic above the portal depicting the Magi in dress like their own.

Reaching its most ornate state in the 12th century under crusader restorations, it has been cited as one of the causes of the Crimean War in the 19th century.

By then, rights to the church had been complicated by Ottoman rulers who sold privileges to different sects.

"Rights were bounced back and forth by the Ottomans to the groups in an expensive game for the Christians," said Rossing.

When the French pressed Catholic claims to the site, the Ottomans issued the 1852 documents which left most rights in Greek Orthodox hands.

"The church was originally ours. By 1852 we had already lost some of our rights and since then the appetites of others have grown," Diodoros I said.

All three groups have built monasteries along the edges of the basilica to increase their presence at the site.

Under the British mandate, a 60-page document set ownership of every icon, lamp, tapestry and key to the church as well as procedures for cleaning each nook and cranny.

On rules for the Grotto entrance, the guide says: "The northern face of the Grotto is cleaned by the government. The pictures in the northern face of the Grotto are to be removed, the eastern one by the Orthodox, and the western one by the Armenians and rehung by them."

# 'Guilt motivates some Christmas giving'

By William F. Rawson  
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Arizona — The size and value of that Christmas gift may be determined by the guilt and insecurity of its giver, an idea advertisers long have known and exploited, a marketing expert says.

"If you think you haven't done a good job as a parent or haven't spent enough time with your wife or children, you might try to compensate with an extravagant Christmas gift," says Peter Reingen of Arizona State University.

And though some giving is unselfish, and the recipient usually feels good about the giver, an excessive gift can produce hostility, says the College of Business professor.

Advertisers have long been

aware of this tendency of guilt to influence gift-giving and use it to their advantage, he said in a recent interview.

"According to holiday commercials, you're not a good spouse if you don't show your appreciation with an expensive gift," Reingen said. "That's why you'll see jewelry commercials run on television at times when both the husband and wife are viewing. The idea is for the wife to turn to the husband and say, 'you'd never buy anything like that for me.'"

Children are especially adept at getting what they want by making their parents feel guilty, Reingen said.

"For example, you've seen commercials that hint that if you don't buy little Johnny a home-computer you'll be responsible for

his falling to pass to the next grade," he said.

Insecurity also plays a major role in deciding which Christmas gifts to give, Reingen said.

"When we give a gift, we project an image," he said. "This is particularly apparent when employees give gifts to their bosses. I would think that some gifts bosses give their employees are not as generous as some gifts they receive from their employees because the boss doesn't have to impress anyone."

If one feels very secure, he may be able to resist the temptation to make an impression with an extravagant gift, Reingen added.

"You don't have to impress those you love and with whom your relationship is secure," he said.

But he added: "Even in the most secure of relationships, it is sometimes important to say 'I love you' with a material expression."

Reingen also believes many gift-givers are motivated by the desire to get something in return.

"Gift-giving is self-perpetuating. You have an obligation to give and, hopefully, an obligation to receive," he said. "At times we give gifts for totally unselfish reasons, but in general, when we give a gift we expect something in return."

Most of the time, he said, we have a good idea of what to expect, and that becomes a gauge of how much we should give.

"And to be on the safe side, we generally end up spending too much."

# Brightest stars focus of search for planets

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic News Service

PINE MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY, Oregon — Vega glitters through the 24-inch telescope like a fine-cut diamond. One of the most brilliant stars in the heavens, it fascinates many astronomers who think that a planet or perhaps even an infant planetary system may be circling nearby.

"It's a good prospect, and we're excited by our preliminary results," says Dr. James C. Kemp, a University of Oregon astronomer and director of the Pine Mountain Observatory near Bend Ore. "We intend to study Vega for at least a year to see if there's anything around it."

Pine Mountain's telescopes are also trained on three other stars — Regulus, Arcturus, and Altair — although for shorter periods of time. They are also exceptionally bright objects, which makes them

good candidates for a search.

## Other solar systems?

Astronomers have yet to find one of their most elusive prizes — a planet orbiting a star outside the solar system.

Finding such an object would have far-reaching implications. "One of the great questions is whether life exists elsewhere in the universe," says Kemp. "Finding a far-flung planet would mean that there might be other solar systems out there, and places where life could evolve."

Vega is particularly intriguing, because infrared sensing already has detected a shell or disk of matter orbiting around the young star. Found by the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS), the shell appears to be a cold cloud of dust and probably much larger particles.

IRAS could not determine whether planets themselves lurked

within the shell. The cloud may simply be a grand-scale asteroid belt of debris left over from Vega's formation.

Partially funded by the National Geographic Society, Kemp is one of the few scientists in the world using polarized light — light whose vibrations are aligned to one plane — in the search for planets.

As Kemp points out, "Suppose that a body orbiting a star is a planet. The planet would also cause polarized light by reflection. If you get polarized light from what seems to be an ordinary star, you may have found a planet."

It sounds simple, but most of the light probably would come from the star, which would be millions of times brighter than the planet. To get around that problem, says Kemp "You would search for a terribly small degree of polarization, which would depend on the size of the planet and how far it is from the star. With a planet the

size of Jupiter, orbiting 10 million miles from the star, around one part in 100,000 of the total light would be polarized. At Pine Mountain, we have instruments that can detect that."

## One in a million

And improvement is imminent. Kemp has developed instrumentation that can pick up polarization changes of one part in a million.

Availability of a telescope that can carry out long-term observations without being disturbed is crucial to this search for planets. For a variety of reasons, there are not many places where that's possible.

Kemp sighs with satisfaction as he gets ready for another night's activity on Pine Mountain. "I can keep my instrumentation on the telescope for years, if I find something interesting. What a luxury!"

# Mankiller named to head Cherokee tribe

By David Wilson  
Reuters

TAHEQUAH, Oklahoma — Former housewife and mother-of-two Wilma Mankiller has become the first woman to lead a major American Indian tribe — the Cherokees, whose ancestors once ruled much of the southeastern states.

Mankiller, 40, was installed this month as chief of the 67,000 Cherokees, who now mostly live in northeastern Oklahoma. They are America's largest tribe after the Navajos.

"There needs to be women in government. It's good for women but it also shows the American Indian in a positive light," she said. Her tribespeople must remake their images of themselves as well as their troubled rural economy, she says. "It's easy to build a building, it's hard to change people's perceptions of themselves."

Deputy chief since 1983, she was elevated when Ross Swimmer, chief for a decade, resigned to become an assistant secretary of

the interior and head of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Women have led other American Indian tribes, but none as big as the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma.

Mankiller, whose father was a full-blooded Cherokee and mother a white, says her self-image was sharpened by poverty, prejudice, a near-crippling car accident and a bout with muscular dystrophy.

She said one of her top priorities was to help develop strong, local economies in northeastern Oklahoma where tribal members live. Unemployment has run rampant throughout Cherokee communities, varying from 10 to 50 per cent.

Mankiller said she would emphasize growth of basic services, including housing, education and water systems and push for construction of a proposed \$100 million hydroelectric plant on the Arkansas River.

Under the administration of Swimmer and Mankiller, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has acquired \$33 million in assets, lar-

gely through nine tribal businesses, including a new firewood industry.

An advocate of reducing Cherokee dependence on federal funds, Mankiller said she opposed Indian-run bingo games, a popular fundraising technique around the country.

"From where we started, it will always be an uphill battle," Mankiller said.

In 1838, in what is remembered as the "Trail of Tears", more than 17,000 Cherokees were forced by the U.S. government to march 1,200 miles (1,900 km) from homes in Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee to lands in northern Oklahoma. About 4,000 Cherokees died during the long trek.

Mankiller spent her early years with 10 brothers and sisters in Rocky Mountain, Oklahoma, and at the age of 11 moved with her family to San Francisco. Married at 19, she had two daughters but is now divorced.

In 1969, she supplied food and supplies for Indian college stu-

dents who briefly took over Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay as a protest against treatment of native Americans.

In 1977, she returned to Oklahoma and was hurt in a head-on traffic collision that left much of her body crushed. While recuperating, she developed imbalance and other symptoms of myasthenia gravis, a form of muscular dystrophy, which required surgery.

In 1983, Swimmer encouraged her to run for deputy chief. Her ascent to the top tribal chair raised few eyebrows among traditional-minded members of the tribe, mainly because of Swimmer's support.

Jay Dreadfulwater, who ran against Mankiller in the race for deputy chief, described the Cherokees who supported her as "ones with traditional Christian feelings that a woman chief is bad" based on their religious beliefs.

"She's a strong-minded woman and a good programme worker, and people recognise that," Dreadfulwater said.

body temperature and Wacoal says the alloy has a memory which makes the bra automatically remodel to a perfect supporting position each time it is worn.

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Another electronic gadget available this year alongside the ever-popular Japanese toilet seat-heater is the singing plastic holder.

# Actors say Lincoln haunts theatre where he was shot

By Bruce Russell  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Does the ghost of President Abraham Lincoln look down today from the theatre box where he was assassinated 120 years ago, applauding actors and laughing at their jokes?

Staff at Ford's Theatre, a combined working stage, shrine and museum in central Washington, say many actors are convinced Lincoln has been there since it resumed plays in 1968, sitting high above the stage in his gold-draped, flag-festooned box.

Sceptics may scoff, but the superstition flourishes at the red-brick, 19th century building, scene of one of the darkest moments in U.S. history and now a prominent Washington theatre.

"I have heard from different actors that they hear something coming from that side of the stage (by Lincoln's box), someone laughing or clapping," says Larisa Wanserski, Ford's publicity director. "It's something that makes you stop and think."

She says one actor was unnerved when he held his hand out to take an object from a property man — and later learned the man had missed his cue and there was no one there at the time.

But such ghost stories do not impress Joe Geary, superintendent of the U.S. Park Service, or Frank Hebblethwaite, curator, who operate Ford's as a daytime museum. About 600,000 tourists tramp through each year to see the place where Lincoln, who emancipated the slaves, was assassinated on April 14, 1865.

Lincoln was watching a play when he was shot from behind by John Wilkes Booth, who then leaped to the stage, breaking a leg before making his getaway. He was apprehended two weeks later.

Geary says: "I have not heard of any ghost," while Hebblethwaite adds: "Lincoln's ghost would much more likely be in the White House where he lived rather than in some theatre."

But both recall that it was strong public feeling about the murder that led the Ford brothers, two Baltimore stage producers, to close the theatre soon after Lincoln's death.

It became a government office and storehouse, falling into dangerous disrepair. In 1893 its floors collapsed under the weight of government files, killing 22 and injuring 68.

In 1932 the building was reopened as a museum, but it was not until the 1960s that actors trod the boards once again.

# Book about exploited Turks in W. Germany breaks sales records

Sales of Gunter Wallraff's book in which he tells of the abuses he suffered during two and a half years he posed as a Turkish worker in West Germany have surpassed all predictions. Ganz unten (roughly, "Right at the bottom") sold 647,258 copies in 14 days, a West German record. Most of the buying public's imagination has been captured by Wallraff's account of when, disguised as "worker Ali," he was loaned out by an employment agency to the Thyssen steelworks in Duisburg. Safety regulations were ignored, no social security payments were made, and the men were made to work in appalling conditions. The respected business newspaper, Handelsblau described the first reaction of Thyssen to the charges as "not just regrettable but nasty ... plays into the hands of those who want to do away with the economic system." Translations of the book are to appear in Turkey, Holland and Scandinavia, Italy, France, Spain, Britain, the USA and in some East Bloc countries — including Albania. In Turkey it is being serialised by a newspaper. This report is by Stefan Geiger in the Stuttgarter Zeitung.

WALLRAFF's unadorned and plain-speaking book is making history: it is reaching far beyond the ranks of educated and politically aware readers to find a chord in a wider audience.

Wallraff played the role of Ali Sigirlioglu, a Turk seeking work illegally in Germany, who suffered at the hands of Germans both big and small.

In this story of exploitation, he was used by, among others, the Thyssen steel company in Duisburg.

Here, loan workers got paid between five marks and 8.50 marks an hour. Thyssen paid 52 marks an hour to the agency. Wallraff worked where it was dirtiest in terms of both human dignity and physical safety.

As he put together his story, Wallraff had doubts about what the reaction would be. The idea of posing as a Turk is not a new one, but the lengths Wallraff went to is. But the sheer strength of the reaction has driven out the doubt.

He has not become merely a best-selling author — he has also changed things. For example the broker in human manpower who farmed "Ali" out — he is a former councillor in a north German city and was once talked about as a possible Social Democrat candidate for Bonn — cannot do any more business with Thyssen. He is being investigated by the public prosecutor.

Thyssen, which had got rid of part of its regular workforce because it preferred to be able to make use of the cheaper hired labour as it needed it, has now off-

ered permanent jobs to several dozen of "Ali's" workmates and some have been sent at the company's cost to health-care centres for recuperation and check-up.

(Wallraff himself has developed a chronic form of bronchitis: "... in no time, it (the dust) is so thick that you can't see your hand in front of your eyes. You don't breathe the dust in any more, you swallow it and eat it. It chokes you. Every breath is torture. Three hours. That means breathing in 3,000 times. Which means breathing in 3,000 times. Which means pumping the lungs full of coke dust ... In between you try and get your breath back, but there is no escape, because you have to work.")

The workers were without protective clothing and safety procedures were ignored. Now the legally required dust masks are available and engineers are inspecting plants.

The state prosecutor is looking at the affair not only on suspicion of tax evasion and hiring of illegal labour, but also on the ground that the company might have by its behaviour caused bodily harm.

Some of the workers have been found to have lead levels in the blood far beyond what is regarded as acceptable. This has been traced back to the metal dust in which they had to work at Thyssen.

Thyssen, which has said very little in defence of Wallraff's claims (in a television programme it had at first tried to offload all blame on the agency, saying that it was a sub-contractor affair) now says it will investigate all charges and will



Gunter Wallraff and his book (photo by Sven Simon)

not stand in the way of any independent investigating commission.

Wallraff now says that the publication of the book has changed attitudes among workers. There used to be the jokes. One he heard went like this: "What is the difference between the Jews and the Turks? Answer: 'The Jews have it all behind them.'"

Wallraff says that the loudmouths among those who hate foreigners dare not speak out any more. The silent majority did not approve of the tirades of hate, but they were delivered all the same. The fact that they are no longer, says Wallraff, gives foreign (foreign in West Germany generally means Turkish) workers a great deal more confidence.

Wallraff has been invited to a meeting of the works council (committee formed by members of the staff) at Thyssen which, he says has until now kept a long way away from having anything to do

with the dirtier jobs in the works. Now the works council wants more permanent jobs to be made available.

He says that the indignation aroused by his book is so great that, for the first time, he isn't having to justify his methods (he has worked anonymously in various roles in order to expose, including one as a member of the editorial staff of the mass-circulation daily, Bild).

And "Ali's" work colleagues in this affair need not fear prosecution because they are illegal workers. They will only be called as witnesses. The Mayor of Duisburg has talked with some of them and he is to take steps to get them residence permits.

Reverberations have gone far beyond West German borders, as would be expected. The book's publication has dominated the front pages of even strongly conservative Turkish newspapers.

# For the woman who has everything — a memory bra

By Keith Stafford  
Reuters

TOKYO — If you think everyone on your Christmas present list has everything, think again.

Gadget-mad Japan has unveiled a few new ideas this year.

How about a brassiere which remembers your curves, a penguin that sweeps tabletops, a scratching anti-sleep headband or a device that deters the hungry female mosquito?

Japan is cheerfully cashing in on the west's present-buying Christmas binge, even though Dec-

ember 25 is a normal working day in this largely buddhist country.

The stationmaster at Hiroshima Central is playing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" over the public address system, and department stores in Tokyo's fashionable Ginza shopping area are bristling with holly, mistletoe, Christmas trees, gangs of santas, and shoppers clutching their year-end bonuses.

So what's new on the shelves this year?

"Tuxedo sam," a small blue and white plastic penguin robot equipped with a few brushes, will

waddle across your Christmas dinner table sweeping crumbs and turkey bones to the floor.

"Sam" comes fairly cheap at 6,000 yen (30 dollars). The latest and largest remote-controlled robot for trundling dad's scotch and soda across the sitting room will burn a 90,000 yen (450 dollar) hole in the bonus.

For mothers and girlfriends, Japan's leading underwear company, Wacoal, has unveiled the "softee" memory bra made with a web of nickel-titanium alloy wire.

The shape of the bra is locked into the bra at the first flash of

body temperature and Wacoal says the alloy has a memory which makes the bra automatically remodel to a perfect supporting position each time it is worn.

Housewives might like a gadget to end some washday blues: An electronic rain sensor called "it's raining."

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# English clubs on verge of radical agreement

LONDON (AP) — After months of heated debate, English soccer officials have agreed on a proposed package to streamline the domestic game and avert the threat of a breakaway "Super League."

The package features a relegation-promotion playoff system used by other European countries and the United States.

Hit by poor attendance and declining sponsorship, the nation's five biggest clubs — Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur — threatened to split from the 92-team professional football league.

They wanted to invite other major clubs into their own "Super League" competition which would have completely reshaped English soccer.

But a compromise blueprint will still give Britain's smaller teams a chance of making the first division while allowing the top teams who wanted a "Super League" a bigger slice of the TV-advertising cake.

The blueprint, agreed in principle by representatives of the four professional divisions, is expected to be ratified by a meeting of all 92 club chairmen early in the new year.

If approved, it would mark the most radical change in the format of the domestic league for over 60 years.

Under the proposed agreement, the 22-team English First Division — the largest in Europe — would be reduced to 20 clubs in time for the 1988-9 season, and the second division increased to 24.

To achieve this, a playoff sys-

tem, already employed in France, West Germany, the Soviet Union and the United States, would come into effect at the end of next season.

As at present, the bottom three clubs in the First Division would be relegated, but only two from the Second Division clubs automatically would go up.

Instead, the club finishing 19th in the First Division would play off against the teams placed third, fourth and fifth in the Second Division, with the winner going into the top section.

This would leave 21 First Division teams for the 1987-88 season. The same procedure would be repeated at the end of that season, cutting the First Division down to 20 clubs.

A similar playoff system would be used by the lower divisions.

The new format will run for a trial period of two years after which officials are expected to decide whether to leave the first division at 20 teams, or to trim it further.

The package also includes a redistribution of television and sponsorship money that would favour the first division teams who will share approximately 50 per cent of the revenue. Soccer pools' earnings will still be shared equally among the four divisions.

Other major items proposed include a change in the league's

archaic voting rules and a new knockout competition, named the "British Cup," featuring teams from both England and Scotland.

Historically, the English and Scottish domestic leagues have their own, separate knockout tournaments. These would be supplemented by the new competition.

"This package can carry English Football into the 21st Century. I now hope all talk of a breakaway and split has been averted," said Gordon Taylor, chairman of the Professional Footballers Association, the players' union.

"We have gone as far as we can at present but eventually, there's got to be many more items put into the package to ensure the game is presented properly," said Taylor.

"I want to see better stadiums, stewarding and family facilities and better player-referee relations."

The new package was welcomed throughout the league, from the most illustrious to the lesser-known clubs.

"It is hoped that the playoff idea will catch public imagination," said Philip Carter, chairman of the First Division champions, Everton.

Neville Owen, chairman of Fourth Division Orient, one of many small clubs that could have been financially hurt by a breakaway league, also welcomed the proposals.

"They will keep more clubs involved and stimulate interest," he said.

One advantage of a trimmed down English First Division would be the removal of four Saturdays from the league calendar. This would give valuable preparation time to the English national team.

Unlike most European countries, soccer authorities in England rarely postpone league matches immediately prior to a major international.

England Manager Bobby Robson, who has been campaigning fiercely for more time to prepare his team for big matches, said in a recent television interview:

"If you want national success, you've got to give the England manager a better chance. The preparation for international football in this country at present is abysmal."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses a meeting of representatives of sports activities at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

## Albiston poised to return for Manchester United

LONDON (R) — Arthur Albiston looks set for a return at left back when injury-struck English First Division leaders Manchester United meet champions Everton at Goodison Park on Thursday.

United, 10 points clear at the start of last month, still lead by four but they have won only two of their last seven matches and have already lost three times to Everton this season.

Sixth-placed Everton have had their share of injury worries but they are still capable of playing quality soccer and their morale will receive a significant boost if England defender Gary Stevens, who has a toe injury, is passed fit.

Thursday's match looks the most difficult of United's three holiday fixtures but they also face a tough challenge on Saturday when they travel to Newcastle who held second-placed Liverpool to a draw last Saturday.

Liverpool, poised for any further slips by United, also travel away twice to Manchester City and Nottingham Forest plus entertaining Sheffield Wednesday at

home. Danish midfielder Jan Molby, who missed the match against Newcastle because of a mouth infection, trained Monday and is likely to play against City on Thursday while player-manager Kenny Dalglish stands by for his first start in two months if Craig Johnston fails to recover from a back injury.

West Ham, sitting in third place, visit Tottenham for the first of their three fixtures.

Former England forward Alan Devonshire has recovered from a jaw injury but winger Mark Ward is doubtful with a calf injury.

Tottenham have Graham Roberts ruled out by suspension and must decide whether Gary Stevens or Paul Miller will fill the defensive gap.

Chelsea, just one point behind West Ham, face fellow-Londoners Queens Park Rangers, without suspended Keith Jones and Darren Wood but hopeful of having David Speedie back after a month injury.

## Prince Hassan urges more efforts to overcome challenges in sports

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Jordan has made good strides towards developing its sports but a great deal remains to be done if the national aspirations are to be fulfilled in this field.

Addressing a meeting of representatives of sports organisations and federations held at Al Hussein Youth City Prince Hassan said that Jordanian youth clubs, sports centres and the players have done well at different Arab regional and international levels, but additional efforts required for the challenges are big and numerous.

He said "sports activities should not be confined to a certain class or group in our society, but they should rather be open to all and that people of all denominations and backgrounds should be offered the chance to enjoy sports."

"Our players and sports people

have proven their capabilities and the sports should be practised within a spirit of tolerance, cooperation and respect among players. No blind fanaticism should be displayed by those competing in different sports and games," Prince Hassan said.

He said that violence during sports activities, and irresponsible actions and acts of hooliganism on the part of certain groups can only achieve material and human losses as is clear in many instances in many countries.

Prince Hassan urged all sports organisations to work towards developing the bodies as well as the minds of the players so that a

spirit of harmony can prevail in all our playgrounds and stadiums.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister of Youth Hisham Al Shariri made a speech welcoming Prince Hassan and outlining the purpose of the meeting. He said, in their three-day meeting, the participants will be discussing working papers designed to find solutions to problems the sports organisations face all the time.

The working papers propose means of promoting sports activities at schools, colleges, cities and rural regions, the minister said.

The opening session was attended by the director general of the Youth Welfare Organisation, Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abdul Tayyeb, the director general of the Al Hussein Youth City Issa Arida and other officials and representatives of the sports organisations and federations in the country.



Delegates from Jordanian sports organisations and federations begin a three-day meeting Monday

## Senegal remains unbeaten in African basketball

ABIDJAN (R) — All-conquering Senegal remained the only unbeaten team at the end of the fourth day of the 13th African Basketball Championship.

The Senegalese, four times winners of the competition, scored their third victory in a row when they beat Nigeria 97-93 and lead Group B from current champions Egypt, who crushed Mauritania 104-68.

In another Group B match, Mozambique routed Guinea 109-70 to keep alive their chances of a semi-final berth.

In Group A, Ivory Coast, the 1981 champions, suffered their first defeat at the hands of the Central African Republic. The unheralded Centrafriens, strengthened by the late arrival of Spanish-based Lavodrama, won 92-76.

Kenya were beaten by Tunisia 92-75, their third defeat in a row, and face an almost impossible task against Ivory Coast.

## Platini wins 'Golden Football' for 3rd time

PARIS (Agencies) — The prestigious Balloon d'Or (Golden Football) for the best European footballer of the season has been won for the third time by French Captain Michel Platini, now playing with Juventus of Turin, Italy, the magazine France Football has announced.

Platini got 127 points out of a possible 130 from the jury of 26 experts from as many European countries.

Platini is only the second player to win the award three times, after Dutchman John Cruyff.

The award, organised by France Football is the latest in a string of honours won by the talented midfielder.

At the end of last month Platini was named World Player of the Year for the second successive year by the influential London-based magazine World Soccer.

Earlier this month he won the "Onze d'Or" nomination awarded by the French soccer Onze Magazine.

Michel Platini

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## Christmas Luncheon



SANTA, THE MADRIGALS AND KALINKA TRIO WILL BE ENTERTAINING ALL YOU LUCKY FOLKS WHILE YOU ENJOY OUR ELABORATE CHRISTMAS BUFFET

**Al Waha**  
BALLROOM

1.00 P.M. - 5.30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY THE 25th OF DECEMBER

Call For Reservations 660100 Ext. 2019/2020

AMMAN **Marriott** HOTEL

## GIFT FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Jordan National Lottery invites you to win and participate in the welfare of the poor, needy and crippled

The Largest Single Prize in Jordan Ever.....

\*\*\* JD 40,000 (Forty Thousand) \*\*\*

Prizes allocated total JD 96,000 (Ninety Six Thousand). Tickets are available with the vendors, and at the headquarters of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, Jabal Luweibdeh, tel: 630398

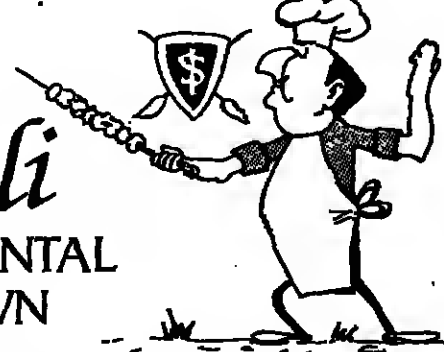
Don't miss this great opportunity. Be one of the winners!!!!

Results of the lottery will be issued on 1st January 1986

Jordan Welfare Lottery

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ISTANBULI - Jabal Amman Near The Spanish Embassy, Tel. 638212

## Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

## THE GOONIES

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

## ACE UP MY SLEEVE

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

## Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 622112

## SAYYED QISHTA

(Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

## Cine-Theatre PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144 - 634149

## BEST FRIENDS

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

## Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

## YUDH

(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

## Cinema OPERA

Abdali, behind Alfa Office

Tel: 675573

## AMANI UNDER RAINBOW

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30



## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4240/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3950/60	Canadian dollars
	2.5050/75	West German marks
	2.8240/60	Dutch guilders
	2.1040/60	Swiss francs
	51.22/52	Belgian francs
	7.6750/850	French francs
	1708/1712	Italian lire
	202.70/90	Japanese yen
	7.6700/850	Swedish crowns
	7.6525/675	Norwegian crowns
	9.0950/1100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	324.90/325.40	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed but with a firm bias in quiet trading ahead of the Christmas holiday, dealers said. At 1200 GMT Tuesday the FTSE 100 index was 2.9 up at 1391.5. ICI showed no movement at 732 while Cable and Wireless at 590 and Distillers at 488 were 5p higher apiece. Becton put oil 8p to 348 amid market rumours of a possible bid for the company. In higher banks, Natwest ended 5p up at 677, while insurance and golds were lower. Government bonds showed gains of around 1/16 point in thin trading, dealers said.

P and O extended Monday's gains to close 10p up at 438, following the acquisition of a 50.01 per cent stake in a company holding a 20.8 per cent interest in European Ferries. European Ferries was unchanged at 139.

Logica lost 22p to 119, following news of the withdrawal of the bid from Electronic Data Systems, but has since recovered to 134. Reuters gained 8p to 335 on buying in the U.S., dealers said. In mixed oils, B.P. added 3p to 551, while Shell was unchanged at 661.

The F.T. 30 index closed 2.7 up at 1116.2 while the FTSE 100 ended 2.9 higher at 1391.5.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Happy holidays! Much activity is present today, and much pleasure can be in effect for families and individuals. Later, an influence indicates many changes in attitudes and relationships.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your partners have good ideas to talk over with you in the evening. This can lead to better understanding for the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are able to gain fine benefits today and tonight. Discuss with a fiancé how to add to your abundance in the new year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Spend some time with partners today, and plan the future more wisely. The evening can be very happy socially.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) The day can be most charming with the one you love and much happiness is possible. Make fine plans for the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Getting friends to join with you and family at holiday festivities can make this a delightful day.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to remember bigwigs on this festive day, and show them particular thought. Invite several in to your home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day to start writing thank-you notes for nice gifts, especially those you have received from out of town.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your intuition is good and you can establish greater harmony with your mate now. Later you can discuss whatever is practical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have an opportunity to help others out of their confusion today. Enjoy a fine family dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to understand every phase of any situation and clarify it. Bring more cheer into the lives of others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be your gregarious self and see as many good friends as you can on this holiday. Show much affection.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Home is the center of activity today and much happiness can reign there. Invite outsiders in also.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have many changes in the life and will find a point of contact with persons of different cultures and environment. Permit to have many young friends around. A very inventive adult here and one who can act quickly in a time of emergency.

## Kuwait plans to liquidate oil company, paper says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to liquidate a state-run company managing investments in downstream oil projects overseas because of uncertainty in world oil markets, the Arabic daily Al Anba said Tuesday.

Kuwait's official stock market last month suspended trading in shares of the Kuwait International Petroleum Investment Company (KIPIC), set up in 1980 by the state oil firm Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Al Anba said KPC, whose chairman is Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, had agreed to a vote by private KIPIC shareholders, with a total 22 per cent stake, on liquidation.

It quoted Sheikh Ali as saying KIPIC had held back from involvement with foreign projects because of uncertain markets.

KPC officials have declined comment on newspaper reports that KPC's net profit fell 25 per cent to 209 million dinars (\$718.9 million) in the year to last June. Sheikh Ali, quoted by Al Anba,

said KIPIC's assets exceeded nominal paid-up capital and the share value at which its stock last traded. He gave no details.

KIPIC's initial capital was 100 million dinars (\$344 million), of which 30 per cent was offered to the public.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's stock exchange this week resumed trading in shares of four Gulf banks following suspension in October, along with shares of some other firms during a state appraisal of the corporate sector's health.

First Gulf Bank, Bahrain Middle East Bank and the United Gulf Bank were able to resume trading after it was clear they were not covered by the study, an exchange spokesman said.

He said 39 Gulf shareholding companies — eight on the official market and the rest on the parallel market — were still suspended, along with 14 Kuwaiti closed shareholding firms, half of them listed on the official market.

## Bangladesh professionals threaten to shut services

DHAKA (R) — About 40,000 striking doctors, engineers and agricultural experts vowed Tuesday to shut down vital services Wednesday if their demands for more pay and higher status are not met.

As the strike moved into its third day a statement by the strikers' coordination committee said the Bangladesh government had not responded to their demands.

"We are being driven into desperation. We have kept the vital services going despite our strike. But this may not be possible from tomorrow if the authorities remain unconcerned about us," it said. Workers' demands include state-

tus for professional employees and a pay rise.

Strike official, Mr. A.J.M. Aziz, said a shutdown would disrupt water and power supplies and telephone and rail services. He denied government charges that the stoppage was aimed primarily at winning higher pay for professional employees.

"More pay is just the last of our nine demands. We want our status recognised than anything else," he said.

The strike began hours after the military government said it would restore free political and trade union activity on Jan. 1 in a move to return the country to democracy after four years of martial law.

## Profit-seekers drive Wall Street stocks sharply lower

NEW YORK (R) — The New York stock market closed sharply lower Monday as investors surveyed the economic scene and decided there were plenty of reasons to take profits.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 14.22 to 1,528.78. The New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.30 to 120.01, and the average price per share decreased 40 cents.

Declines led advances 1187 to 492 and trading volume fell to 107.89 million shares from 170.27 million on Friday. It was the slowest trading day in three weeks.

Mr. Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp said some investors were probably disappointed that the Federal Reserve did not cut the discount rate on Friday. He said fresh economic data from Washington Monday made it less likely that there would be a cut.

Mr. Michael Metz of the Oppenheimer Securities firm said several developments gave investors an excuse to take profits after the strong run-up in share prices since

September.

Car and airlines stocks were among the worst hit. Mr. Metz said some investors were worried that a new round of fare-cutting by U.S. airlines' on domestic routes could hurt profits in the industry and there were similar concerns that recent moves to reintroduce financing incentives in the car industry could cut the profits of Detroit's big manufacturers.

ATT (American Telephone and Telegraph) was the most actively traded stock, and fell by \$14 to \$24.78.

General Motors skidded two to \$72, Ford \$2-1/4 to \$55-1/4 and Chrysler \$7 to \$44. Among airlines, AMR (American Airlines) fell \$1-1/4 to \$39-1/4, UAL (United) \$1-1/4 to \$49, Southwest \$3 to \$26-1/4, Delta \$3 to \$38-1/4 and U.S. Air \$3 to \$34-1/4.

Adding pressure to the selloff, Mr. Metz said, was a fear that U.S. retailers might not have as strong a Christmas selling period as they hoped.

## Reagan to seek changes in trade section of new farm legislation

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is concerned that protectionist provisions of a new farm bill will backfire on the United States and will ask Congress to modify them.

The provisions became law Monday when Mr. Reagan signed a five-year, \$52 billion measure designed to bring sweeping changes to federal farm policy and spur exports of American agricultural products.

In approving the legislation, Mr. Reagan strongly objected to several of its provisions, including some relating to trade, which he said "could well backfire on us."

The bill calls for grain export subsidies to help U.S. producers compete more effectively against the European Community, Australia, Argentina and Canada.

It also imposes new curbs on sugar imports that could hurt Latin American exporting countries and includes a new directive to export dairy products that could affect New Zealand.

Calling the provisions totally counter-productive, Mr. Reagan said his administration will work with Congress next year to make appropriate changes.

Mr. Reagan hailed other features of the farm bill and a separate farm credit measure, also signed into law during a White House ceremony.

He said of the farm bill: "Perhaps the most helpful thing it does is establish predictable long-term policies so that our farmers will be able to make realistic plans for investment and production."

The price and income support

bill is the costliest in U.S. history, setting projected costs for government price supports at about \$52 billion over the first three years of the programme — some \$2 billion more than the White House wanted.

Enactment of the legislation followed a year of bitter debate between the administration and Congress over how to cope with severe problems in the U.S. agricultural sector.

Mr. Reagan sought deep cuts in income supports to move towards a more market-orientated farm policy, but Congress insisted on phased reductions to prevent the farm crisis, at a near-depression level in some areas, from worsening.

"What we do today recognises that the health of American agriculture is essential to the well-being of the American economy," the president said as he signed the measure.

The other bill he signed reorganises the privately run farm credit system, which has suffered massive losses because of low crop prices, declining exports and falling land prices.

Mr. Reagan said the bill would ensure a steady supply of credit to farmers while reassuring investors. But critics contend it favours giant agricultural producers at the expense of small family farmers.

Meanwhile, the Reagan admin-

istration has strongly criticised a proposal by the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, to restrict the use of so-called junk bonds to finance corporate takeovers.

The Justice Department, in a public comment filed with the central bank and backed by the Treasury, labour and commerce departments, said limiting the use of below-investment-grade bonds, or junk bonds, to finance corporate takeovers would reduce the numbers of takeover attempts.

That would eliminate an important source of pressure on companies to operate efficiently, harming shareholders, investors and the U.S. economy in general, the Justice Department said in the comment filed Monday.

Administration opposes proposed

Fed rules on junk bonds

The comment brought the free-market Reagan administration into unusual open conflict with the independent central bank on the workings of the financial system.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) is worried about the increase in debt caused by a series of corporate takeovers financed by low-grade bonds but its proposal to restrict their use has been criticised not only by takeover experts like T. Boone Pickens but other businessmen.

In a separate letter to the bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) asked it to either abandon the proposal altogether or send it back for further study.

The SEC and the admin-

istration questioned the legal authority of the Federal Reserve to act on the junk-bonds issue without the involvement of Congress.

The SEC, which regulates U.S. securities markets, said it was concerned that the Fed proposal would spawn lawsuits, bog down friendly as well as hostile takeovers, and could have a variety of unintended economic consequences.

The SEC is the agency that enforces the Fed's margin rules — the regulations that set out how much of a financial transaction must be paid for initially in cash.

The Fed on Dec. 6 voted by three to two to apply a 50 per cent margin rule to corporate takeover attempts, now often financed through the sale of debt securities issued by shell corporations against the assets of the firm being taken over.

Under the new plan only half of such a deal could be paid for with debt.

In its comments, the SEC said the proposal might "unduly complicate its ability to enforce the margin requirements, and to secure prompt and consistent remedies for violations."

The SEC warned that the proposal also could promote takeovers by foreign concerns — to which the margin requirements do not apply — and would probably deter takeovers of large corporations.

"This result may or may not be desirable, but appears to fall within the province of Congress through legislation, rather than of the board through rule interpretation," the SEC said.

## U.N. official says Africa crisis is far from over

NAIROBI (R) — Africa's economic crisis is far from over despite bumper harvests this year, according to U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary Adebayo Adedeji.

In an end-of-year statement he said that although Africa's 1985 crop was expected to be 14 million tonnes over last year's disastrous harvest, there was no room for complacency.

"The good rains of 1985 and the consequential bumper harvest should however not lead us to the naive conclusion that Africa has now overcome its drought-induced problems," he said.

"First of all, the food balance is still precarious, since in many areas the new harvest is not yet in. In other cases, due to the massive disruptions caused by the drought, the population has not been able to take advantage of the good rains, through lack of seeds, of draught animals or simply because it has been forced to emigrate far from home in the search for food and shelter," he added.

Mr. Adedeji also said that although almost 6.6 million tonnes of food aid had been pledged for 1985/86, distribution was causing serious problems and much food

had not been delivered to those in need.

African governments needed to establish debt monitoring offices to keep an accurate estimate of their debts, he said.

One of the problems in Africa was that many countries did not know just how much they owed and thus were not in a position to take realistic debt policy measures, Mr. Adedeji added.

He estimated the continent's total debt at over \$170 billion in 1985.

Mr. Adedeji said Africa's economy was expected to grow by just over two per cent this year, compared with 0.5 per cent in the period 1980-84.

"But this growth is mostly the result of better weather conditions which boosted agricultural production considerably," he said.

"Therefore, Africa's economic crisis is far from being over and with the poor prospects indicated by weak external demand and declining investments, major efforts aimed at rehabilitating the African economies and laying the foundation for long-term development are clearly needed if the region is to resume significant growth," he added.

## Banks agree to advance Texaco \$1.6 billion loan

NEW YORK (R) — Texaco, the U.S. oil company involved in a major legal battle, said Monday night that banks had agreed to advance it up to \$1.6 billion.

Texaco and certain of its subsidiaries had entered into a receivables purchase agreement with a syndicate of major domestic and international banks, Mr. Larry Bingham, a spokesman at its White Plains headquarters, said.

The agreement involves Texaco selling to the banks, on a continuing basis, up to \$1.6 billion of money it expects to receive in its accounts.

Late last week the company said that it was nearing completion of negotiations on a loan package amounting to \$1.7 billion. Manufacturers Hanover was reported to be the lead bank in a 30-member bank syndicate talking with Texaco.

"Details of the loan package are expected to be announced soon," the spokesman said, but they were not immediately available.

Texaco has been under pressure as its sources of short-term financing dried up in the face of last month's \$11.1 billion award against it for damages and interest made to the Texas company Pennzoil. The award raised the prospect that Texaco might have to file for bankruptcy to pursue an appeal.

Texaco and Pennzoil have been holding talks in secret on a possible settlement of the case, in which a Texas court ruled that Texaco unethically interested in Pennzoil's 1984 attempt to buy Getty Oil. Texaco bought Getty for \$10.1 billion.

A temporary injunction against Pennzoil attempting to collect on its award was issued by a U.S. district court in New York last Tuesday and extended indefinitely on Friday while the companies discuss a settlement.

Earlier reports said terms of the banks' loan package for Texaco would involve the oil company paying an up-front fee of \$2.1 million and a charge of 0.375 per cent on unused portions of the loan.

Banking sources also said the syndicate would charge Texaco an interest rate of 0.75 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the benchmark for international lending, for Euro-dollar deposits.

Texaco has been maintaining silence on the talks with Pennzoil and earlier Monday would neither characterise the tenor of the talks or cite their location.

## THE Daily Crossword by H. Kenneth Jackson

ACROSS

- Snake
- Boat
- Mimic
- Monstrous city
- Public
- Stomach
- Operatic solo
- Impulse
- Candle part
- Art item
- Shelled
- Parents
- Moroccan prince
- Once
- Bump
- Beetle
- Dickering
- Jackfruit
- arle
- Tomato
- So be it
- Wound
- Therapy
- One ending
- Inner part
- Turk city
- Historical
- Sombrero or hat
- Bye-bye
- Gr. colony
- Essential
- Author's work
- Shelled bird
- Illness
- Fl. gift
- Light
- A NY governor
- Egg

DOWN

- Polish states
- Yampan of
- 
- Green
- chickadee
- More logical
- Ump's kin
- Of law
- Vehicle
- Premiere
- Struggle
- Adge
- TV hours

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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- TV hours

## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAVER

OCHAM

TEFNIC

SOPPEO

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O O O O O - O O - O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SILKY VISTA CALICO ENTAIL

Answer: "A still" is an apparatus that makes many people this "NOISY"



# 3 die in S. African gold mine protests

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — A white man was stabbed to death and two blacks were killed by rubber bullets in protests at a gold mine near Johannesburg early Tuesday, police said.

The incident brought the death toll in 24 hours of racial violence to 11. Five whites were killed Monday in a bomb blast blamed on black guerrillas near Durban and three blacks were killed in other incidents.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said security staff fired rubber bullets to quell protests at the Westonaria Gold Mine west of Johannesburg after the white man had been killed and two others wounded.

Police said the bullets were fired at a large group of blacks throwing stones. Vehicles and offices were damaged.

Another black man was shot dead after a petrol bomb was thrown by a mob surrounding a policeman's house in Soshanguve, central Transvaal, police said.

The mob had threatened the policeman's wife for allegedly buying goods in a white area.

Police killed another two black protesters in a flare-up in the huge black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg.

The official death toll in Monday's holiday resort bombing was revised down to five from earlier official figure of six Tuesday.

Forty-seven are now listed as injured, compared to the earlier figure of 44.

The bomb blast ripped through a shopping centre thronged with Christmas shoppers and holidaymakers at Amanzimtoti near the Indian Ocean port of Durban.

Black Nationalist leader Winnie Mandela said Tuesday that she had been re-arrested by police when she returned to her home in Soweto township Monday soon after appearing at a Johannesburg court.

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, was arrested on Sunday for breaking an order banning her from the Johannesburg district, including Soweto.

A Johannesburg magistrate's court freed her Monday on condition she appear again on Jan. 22. Mrs. Mandela then returned straight to Soweto.

"The police advised me formally that I was being re-arrested for the same offence as on Sunday," she told Reuters by telephone from a Cape Town hotel.

She said the police were driving her to Krugersdorp police station, west of Johannesburg, but on the way they apparently received new instructions and told her she had until 5 p.m. to leave Soweto.

She was escorted to the airport Monday night by security police where she took a plane to Cape Town in order to visit her husband in nearby Pollsmoor Prison Tuesday and on Christmas Day.

Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange cut short a holiday to visit the Durban blast scene covered with blood, fallen masonry and shattered glass.

He said the attack was "a dastardly deed of the most horrendous nature and is in line with the declared policy of the ANC (African National Congress) to attack soft targets — in this instance innocent women and children."

"The South African police will work tirelessly night and day to unmask the culprits so that justice can take its course," he declared.

The ANC is the main guerrilla group fighting to topple white rule in Pretoria.

Police said they found the bodies of two black men after firing shotguns at flag-carrying marchers in Soweto township, the country's largest, outside Johannesburg.

Five people were injured in the incident and 227 black people were arrested during violent protest elsewhere in the country, police said.

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## India's youngest government sworn in

**NEW DELHI (Agencies)** — A 32-year-old student militant was sworn in Tuesday as chief minister of India's youngest state government after defeating Congress Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Assam's Dec. 16 elections.

Prafulla Mahanta, leader of the three-month-old Assam People's Front (APF), took the oath of office before thousands of cheering supporters in an open-air stadium in the Assam state capital Gauhati.

Mahanta, who has vowed to expel thousands of illegal immigrants from the strategic north-east state, heads a government of students whose ages range from 25 to 35 years.

The APF has been dubbed the bachelor party by the press since only 12 of its 64 members who will sit in the new 126-seat state assembly are married.

The youngsters, appealing to Assamese regionalism and anti-immigrant sentiment, wrested the state of 22 million people from Congress which had ruled there for all but two years since 1952.

Congress (I), which lost state elections in Punjab to the Sikhs' Akali Dal Party in September, held on to just 23 assembly seats. It won 80 per cent of seats in the last poll in 1983 which was widely boycotted by the militants.

Mahanta, a bearded, high caste Brahmin Hindu, said his first priority was to detect and expel illegal Muslim immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Ethnic Assamese anger against the Bengali-speaking immigrants led to widespread violence during the 1983 elections and more than 3,000 people were killed.

Mahanta vowed to implement an Aug. 15 peace accord between the militants and Mr. Gandhi's government. The agreement calls for the deportation of immigrants who settled in Assam after 1971 and strips those who settled there between 1966 and 1971 of voting rights for 10 years.

Mahanta described the new government as a "unique experiment."

"For the first time in the world, students are going to run a government," he told the Associated Press. "We are confident we can prove to the world that youths can run a government more efficiently."

Addressing the large crowd, Mahanta said: "This government has come to power because of the sacrifices of many youths during the long years of agitation. We promise their sacrifices will not be in vain."

## Philippines names election watchdog

**MANILA (R)** — A non-governmental organisation was Tuesday charged with monitoring the Philippine presidential elections on Feb. 7.

After a two-day public hearing the commission on elections authorised the national citizens movement for free elections (NAM-FREL) to assign one watcher in each of the country's more than 90,000 polling centres to guard against fraud.

The election pits President Ferdinand Marcos, who has ruled the country for 20 years, against Corason Aquino, widow of murdered opposition politician Benigno Aquino.

Comelec Chairman Victorino Sveliano said other civic groups could also be assigned watchdog roles.

Namfrel was the same group authorised by the commission to

oversee the parliamentary polls last May in which the opposition won more than 50 seats in the 180-member National Assembly. Meanwhile armed forces chief Gen. Fabian Ver said Tuesday more than 4,500 rebels, soldiers and civilians were killed in the Philippines' guerrilla war this year.

He told reporters in a year-end review Monday night that the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), remained a "major threat to national security."

Gen. Ver said the death toll comprised 1,242 soldiers, 2,071 guerrillas and 1,195 civilians, almost the same level as that of last year. He said the NPA this year "managed to make modest gains in various aspects" but did not elaborate.

President Ferdinand Marcos said in a re-election campaign speech 10 days ago that more than 10,000 civilians alone had been killed by guerrillas this year.

The NPA had fewer than 100 fighters when it first took to the hills in 1969. Today the army estimates its strength at up to 13,000. Gen. Ver said the guerrillas operated mostly in remote areas and exerted varying degrees of influence over five per cent of the 54 million population.

In the past five years 4,031 soldiers, 6,211 guerrillas and 3,852 civilians had been killed.

Mr. Marcos, who has held power for 20 years, has accused the opposition in campaign speeches of having Communist links and said that if he is defeated in elections in February they "may turn the Philippines into another Kampuchea or Vietnam."

## Nigeria arrests more coup plotters

**LAGOS (R)** — More people have been arrested in connection with an abortive plot to topple Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, Information Minister Anthony Ukpo said.

But Col. Ukpo declined to give any details of the plot against Gen. Babangida and said the government would still not name the plotters.

"More people have been arrested since the announcement (of the plot) was made on Friday," Col. Ukpo said on television Monday night.

He said the government was aware of speculation linking many people with the plot and would do its best to publish the names of the plotters soon, but investigations had to be completed first.

High-ranking military sources say three generals are among those being held. Defence Minister Gen. Domkat Bali has said the plotters will be punished under military law.

At Doddan Barracks, Gen. Babangida's headquarters, the ruling military council met for many hours Monday. Reporters counted only 18 of the 28 members going in but Col. Ukpo said some were late and others tied up with state affairs.

Authorities say the plotters' grievances included Gen. Babangida's liberal human rights policy, which his chief spokesman, Duro Onabule, said Monday would not change.

The plotters were also angry because Nigeria rejected an International Monetary Fund loan and were opposed to the appointment of middle-ranking officers to senior position.

## 3 die as plane crashes into crowded U.S. mall

**CONCORD, California (R)** — A light plane crashed through the glass roof of a crowded shopping centre and sprayed burning debris over Christmas shoppers, killing three people and injuring at least 50, police said.

Parts of the plane crashed close to children queuing to see Father Christmas. Ten of the injured, including three children, were badly burned, police said.

The plane exploded in a giant fireball which sent flames shooting 30 to 40 feet (10 to 13 metres) into the air, a woman shopper said.

"I thought we had been struck by an earthquake," she said.

A young father said: "We were standing there to get our picture taken with Santa Claus. Then all of a sudden it was red hot and we just took off running. The ceiling started to come down and I got tar all over me."

Three of those burned were doused by shoppers in an ornamental fountain before ambulances arrived on the scene.

The two-engine plane was making a second attempt to land in heavy fog at Buchanan Airfield on the outskirts of Concord, 50 kilometres north-east of San Francisco, when it crashed through the roof of the three-storey Sun Valley Shopping Centre.

The pilot and his passenger were listed by police as among the dead.

The tail section of the plane was left hanging from the roof over a department store. Other pieces of wreckage crashed through the roof to the floor of the complex.

The mall's sophisticated sprinkler system was activated by the flames and probably prevented a worse tragedy, a fire department spokesman said.

## France to compensate Greenpeace for ship

**PARIS (R)** — France has begun negotiations to compensate the ecology group Greenpeace for sinking its flagship Rainbow Warrior in the Pacific.

An External Relations Ministry spokesman Monday said France had signed an agreement with Greenpeace "admitting responsibility for the July 10 bombing in Auckland harbour and had agreed to direct talks with the ecologists over a settlement for damages."

Two French secret agents are serving a 10-year jail term in New Zealand for the bombing.

Under the accord, France has agreed to submit any dispute over the amount of compensation to a three-man international tribunal in Geneva if the two parties fail to reach a settlement in 90 days.

Although the government has admitted the agents were acting under orders, the agreement to negotiate with Greenpeace was seen by observers as symbolically important.

Greenpeace International Chairman David McTaggart said the deal was concluded by Lloyd Cutler, a U.S. lawyer, and French lawyer Daniel Soulez Larriere, who defended the two agents now in jail.

Mr. McTaggart said: "The only issue to be adjudicated will be the amount of damages France must pay to Greenpeace."

He quoted Mr. Cutler as saying France's agreement to comply with the ruling of an international tribunal and avoid the problems of national courts was the most practical way of obtaining "the moral and financial satisfaction that is Greenpeace's just due."

Paris is locked in a dispute with New Zealand, which has demanded up to 20 million dollars (\$10 million) in damages for violation of its sovereignty.

## Liberal candidate wins Honduran presidential polls

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)** — Jose Azcona Hoyo of the Liberal Party, a 58-year-old civil engineer, was declared the winner of the presidential election.

The announcement Monday by the National Elections Tribunal came nearly a month after Hondurans voted Nov. 24 for a president, a new congress and mayors.

Mr. Azcona Hoyo is to be inaugurated Jan. 27 for a four-year term, succeeding Roberto Suazo Cordova in the first peaceful transition between two civilian governments in more than half a century.

Rafael Palacios Tosta, president of the tribunal, said in a nationwide broadcast that the tribunal received, counted and scrutinised the ballots cast in 285 municipalities around the country.

Nine candidates from four parties ran for the presidency but the tribunal announced only the total votes for each party. Mr. Azcona was declared winner under a formula awarding the presidency to the top vote-getter in the party that won the most votes.

Mr. Suazo Cordova's election in 1981 ended 15 years of military rule. Mr. Suazo Cordova, a 59-year-old physician, had tried unsuccessfully last year to amend a constitutional ban on re-election.

The presidency last passed peacefully from one civilian administration to the next in 1929. Since then the military has controlled the government, often resorting to coups.

U.S. officials had expressed strong interest in a fair and open election that would keep Honduras' young democracy alive.

Honduras has come to play a key role in U.S. policy in Central America since the leftist Sandinistas came to power in neighbouring Nicaragua in 1979.

Mr. Azcona, who like other candidates offered few specific

campaign promises, pledged to strengthen Honduras' ties with the United States, although he did not say what that would mean.

He also promised a government of honesty and austerity, and said he supported a unified effort in Latin America to renegotiate the region's large foreign debt.

The elections panel said the Liberal Party won with 786,594 votes for its four candidates, followed by the National Party with 701,406 votes for its three candidates.

Rounding out the voting were the recently founded Christian Democratic Party, with 30,173 votes, and the Innovation and Unity Party with 23,705, the panel said. Each party entered one candidate.

A total of 1,597,841 people voted, out of 1,901,756 who were eligible, according to the elections panel.

Early returns in the days after the election showed Mr. Azcona Hoyo trailing far behind the rival candidates' leading candidate, businessman Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

The formula that assured Mr. Azcona Hoyo's victory was part of an election reform package approved last fall, and ran counter to the method prescribed in the Honduran constitution. The constitutional formula called for election of a president by simple majority.

Prospects for a peaceful transition of civil government were clouded just before the election, when the elections tribunal waited until hours before the polls opened to announce which method it would use in declaring the winner.

Many observers saw the election reform as an attempt by Mr. Suazo Cordova to help his hand-picked candidate, Oscar Mejia Arellano, a Liberal. But Mejia fell far behind the leaders in early counting.

## Argentine couple to seek life sentence for junta

**BUENOS AIRES (R)** — The parents of a teenager who disappeared during military rule in Argentina said Tuesday they would seek life sentences for all nine junta members tried for human rights abuses.

The parents of Pablo Fernandez Meijide, who was 17 when he was abducted in 1976 by armed men, told Reuters they would bring a supreme court action against rulings earlier this month by the courts which tried the nine military leaders.

The court, ordered by President Raul Alfonsin to probe the disappearance of at least 9,000 people during military rule, acquitted four of the junta members and sentenced three to shorter jail terms.

Former military President Jorge Videla and retired Admiral Emilio Massera were jailed for life. Videla and two other junta members appealed Monday against conviction.

The Meijides said they would challenge the court's decision that junta members could not be held responsible for disappearances which occurred under previous juntas.

Videla, who led the military coup in 1976 which began eight years of military rule, was given a life sentence earlier this month for his role in the kidnapping and murder of thousands of suspected leftist subversives.

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## Columbia liftoff postponed for 2 days

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R)** — The space shuttle Columbia's scheduled Jan. 4 liftoff was postponed for two days to allow the five-member crew additional training, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

The Columbia was originally to have taken off last week but the flight was aborted 14 seconds before liftoff because a computer warned of a mechanical failure.

NASA said the delay, to Monday Jan. 6, would also cause a one-day delay in the scheduled Jan. 22 flight of the shuttle Challenger. The Challenger was rescheduled for a Jan. 23 liftoff.

NASA said Columbia's crew had been given extra time off for Christmas and would be drilled on a simulator for two days when the holiday period was over to "re-sharpen their skills."

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## Basques kill retired Spanish general

**PAMPLONA, Spain (R)** — ETA guerrillas, bolstered by a wave of public sympathy following the death in civil guard custody of a Basque, have apparently retaliated by killing a retired parliamentary officer.

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## Pakistan awaits last post for martial law

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — Pakistanis are waiting in suspense for President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to sound the last post for more than eight years of military rule.

Gen. Zia has promised to end martial law by Dec. 31. But characteristically he has kept everyone guessing about the actual date when the civilian parliament elected in supervised elections last February will take over the day-to-day work of government.

Gen. Zia was originally expected to make the announcement Wednesday — birthdate of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Most commentators say they now expect the president to make his crucial speech on Friday or Saturday.

Even government officials say they do not know the date and point out that Gen. Zia has always created an air of mystery around his most important proclamations.

"Nobody is giving any dates," an Information Ministry official told Reuters. "There is nothing I can tell you."

Gen. Zia promised to hold elections in 90 days when he seized power as army chief in July 1977, toppling Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was later hanged.

However, he twice postponed the elections and continued martial law. It has now lasted eight and

half years — the longest of Pakistan's three periods of military rule.

Gen. Zia's important announcements, starting with his coup against Mr. Bhutto, have always been either complete surprises or shrouded in confusion until the last minute.

In August 1983 he advanced at short notice a speech saying he would hold elections. In December 1984 he stunned the country with a December 1984 television address announcing he would hold a referendum to give him another five years in power.

His speech last January to give the eventual election date was expected